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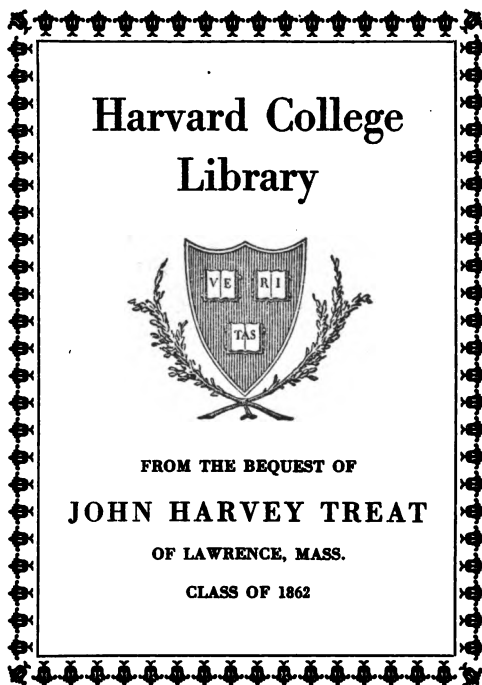
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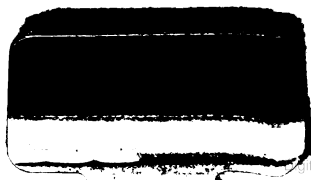
THE
CHURCH AND PARISH
OF GOSBERTON

W.J.KAYE, F.S.A

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HISTORY OF GOSBERTON.



THE MONUMENT OF SIR JOHN DE RYE, KT. (?)
IN GOSBERTON CHURCH. 1280 A.D.

KAYE : HISTORY OF GOSBERTON.

0

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
Church and Parish
OF
Gosberton
IN THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

(WITH SEVEN ILLUSTRATIONS AND TWO INSERTED PEDIGREES.)

BY

WALTER JENKINSON KAYE, JUN., ^{B.A.,} F.S.A.,
[LONDON AND SCOT.]

*Member of the Monumental Brass Society, London, and
Honorary Member of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society.*

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and her servants in the
winter have to weary
the same old household
the same old out-of-date
t?

earied with the coaxing
the kitchen range; the
rooms warm (and clean)
the coal-carrying, grate-
never-ending tasks?

vided them with the
es—the gas cooker, the
boiler, the hot water
as fires—that make life
nd happier for your
d her servants?

ake your home "replete

- " before"
- .. 45 .. "Lodge" read "Longe."
 - .. 81 .. "Invante" read "Juvante."
 - .. 87 .. "Annog" read "Annoq."
 - .. 113 and Index, for "Solicitor" read "Attorney."
 - .. 114 for "Cookshult" read "Cockshutt."
 - .. 117 and Index, for "Bay" read "Day."



P R E F A C E .

IF from these pages the dwellers in the fen-land village of Gosberton can be induced to take a deeper interest in the history of themselves and of their church, the writer's aim will have been attained. Like so many works of this description this one has been financially unsuccessful; and this fact will in some measure account for the omission of matters which would otherwise have found a place herein. It was found necessary also to considerably alter my original intentions owing to the subsequent discovery of particulars unknown to me at the outset.

I desire to express my indebtedness to my friend J. Edwin-Cole, Esq. F.R. Hist. Soc., J.P., Barrister-at-Law, of Swineshead Hall, for the loan of the two inserted pedigrees, shewing his descent through various maternal ancestors, from the ancient Gosberton families of de Rye and de Cressy, as well as for most kind assistance rendered in many other ways; to the Lady Elizabeth Cust for the generous loan of unpublished MSS. relating to the Rye family, and to Walter Rye, Esq., for the gift of his published account of his ancestors (the de Ryes of Norfolk and Gosberton); to Dr. J. G. M. G. Stack for valued assistance in the account of the Volunteers, as well as for the encouraging interest he has taken in the work during its

Preface.

progress ; to Edgar Leopold Layard, Esq. C.M.G., for the kind loan of numerous papers relating to the family of Calthrop ; to the Vicar of Gosberton for permission to examine documents relating to the Church as well as for the few notes we have been able to extract from the parish registers ; to Miss Topham for information as to the church ; and to Dr. F. M. Sealy for the loan of notes left by the late Vicar, For help in various ways I am also indebted to the Rt. Honble. Lord Brownlow, to the President (Dr. Perry) and the Secretary (the Rev. E. M. Tweed) of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society ; to the Rev. Canon Fowler, D.C.L., F.S.A., the Rev. Canon Hemmans, the Rev. Canon Maddison, F.S.A., the Rev. F. Todd, H. Peet, Esq., F.S.A., Charles Welch, Esq., F.S.A., Major Casswell, J.P., the Rev. J. H. Robinson, B.A., B. Fountain, Esq., and to my lamented friend the Rev. W. F. Creeny, M.A., F.S.A. For the illustrations I offer my thanks to Miss Topham, Dr. Stack and Dr. Sealy ; and to Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. for loan of the block of the knight's tomb. The de Rye seal is from a photograph by Mr. W. A. Southwell, and that of the Church by Mr. J. Sellers. My thanks are due to my subscribers, as well as my apologies for the long delay in publication.

WALTER JENKINSON KAYE.

BRUSSELS,

May, 1897.

ETYMOLOGY.

IN tracing the history of our church and village through the long centuries which have elapsed since its first foundation, it will be well to commence by making an enquiry into the origin of the place-name, wherein we shall be assisted by the collection of early examples of various spellings of the name, which occur in great number. The earliest instance, we meet with in Domesday Book, A.D. 1085, where it appears in the guise of Gozeberdechercha and Goseb'techirche, respectively. The lapse of nearly a hundred years shews a very trifling alteration; for in 1167 we find Goseb'deschirche and Goseberechirche. But in the next century—the 13th—the name undergoes the greatest change. The following instances of this date have come under our notice (we quote in chronological order): — Gosbercherch, Goseb_ncherch, Gosebbikirk, Goseberde Scherrhe, Goseberchirch, Gosberk', Gosbertchirche, Gosberchirche, Goseberdkyrk, Goseberkirke, Gosberkirk, and Goseberchurche. The name appears during the 14th: and 15th: centuries as Gosberkirk, Goseberkyrk, or Goseberkerk; and not until the year 1510, (temp: Hen: VIII.) do we encounter it in its present form. Then for two centuries (1500-1700) doubt as to what was the correct form, Gosberkirk or Gosberton, appears to have prevailed. We have evidence of this in a document dated 1609 where allusion is made to Gosberton alias Gosberkirk. After this date, beyond mis-spellings such as Gorboston, Gosbertown, Gosbartowne, Gospertown and Gosperton, which occasionally

occur, the place has generally been known by its present name, though even at the time of writing one hears the traditional name of Gosberkirk in conversation with the villagers. All this tends to prove that Gosberton is a comparatively modern name, but that it was known to early and mediæval times as Gosbertchurch or Gosberkirk. For the derivation of this name we must go back to Saxon days, when tradition tells us—we have, we confess, no better authority—that a Saxon leader named Gosbert or Gosberd, who lived about the time of King Egbert (827-837), erected a church here. The meaning of the latter part of the name is palpable, -church and -kirk are of course identical. Had we not known that the suffix -ton was in this case modern, we should have found in it another link with Saxon times, when this word implied protection, signifying “a place surrounded by a hedge or rudely fortified by a palisade.” Our purpose in thus entering at such length into a discussion on the etymology is partly to correct the erroneous impressions promulgated by local *soi-disant* authorities on the subject, who would have us believe that -ton means “a place of tonnage” (whatever that may mean) or that Gosberton is in reality a contracted form of “God’s poor town”!

The hamlets of Westhorpe, Rysegate, The Cheal, The Clough, Rigbolt and Belnie, belong to the parish and from these names we may learn something. Rigbolt and Belnie take us again to Saxon days. The former was in earlier times figured as Wrightsbould, which would seem to suggest the locality of a smithy.

Under other circumstances we should have had reason to suppose that the first part of the word, *-rig*, was in all probability but another form of *ridge*, a feature worthy of note in so flat a district as this. The suffix *-ey*, in Belney or Belnie is also Saxon, and denotes a situation near the water (cf. Friskney, Tetney, Cadney, Blankney, Gedney). Connected with this is the Norman-French *eau* so frequently occurring in the neighbourhood, e.g., Quadring Eau-dyke, Gosberton Eau. In mediæval documents *eau* is often written *ee*, confirming the opinion that in those days *eau* was pronounced *ee*, cf. Beauchamp, Belvoir. *Clough* is a Saxon word meaning a cleft in a rock or in the side of a hill; but probably here indicates a boundary from its connection with Erse *clock* a stone. [Vide Dr. Taylor, Words and Places]. Thurgote, an ancient sluice in Gosberton, leads us to Saxon times again, when Thor, after whom our Thursday is named, was their god of thunder. Cheal, which is variously spelled Cheil, Cheyle, Cheille, and Chille, may possibly mark the site of an old drying-house for corn, or bricks, from A.S. *cylu*. A distinct trace of the Danish influence is to be found in Westhorpe—the western hamlet. *Thorpe*, throp and trop (cf. Germ: *Dorf*) a village, which is very common in East Anglia and Denmark, but rare elsewhere; is almost entirely confined to settlements of the Danes as distinct from those of the Norwegians. *Gate* or *gade*, a road or village street, in Rysegate, owes its origin also to the Danes; while the former part of the word is of course traceable to the influential family of De Rye, which has

played so conspicuous a part in the history of Gosberton.

The *Roman Bank*, and Gosberton Bank, are relics left to us from the Roman occupation of Britain (55 B.C.—410 A.D.) when a large barrier was erected stretching inland as far as Bicker, to keep back the tempestuous sea.

The Saxons, who made their first incursion under Hengist and Horsa in 455, have left us constant reminders of their settlement here, as we have shewn in the place-names, Gosberton, Rigbolt, Belnie, Clough, Cheal, Eau-dyke, and Thurgote. Becoming christianized, the Saxons erected monasteries, built churches, constructed good high-roads and began the work of draining the fens.

The principal onslaught of the Danes in Lincolnshire took place in 866. Seven years later, by treaty with King Alfred the Great, the boundaries of the Danelagh were determined; but peace was not yet established; further ravages were made, until matters became so serious that Ethelred, thinking to put an end to Danish rule in England, ordered the dreadful massacre on St. Brice's Day, 1002; but in 1013, Sweyn took a bitter revenge, and especially in this part of the country, burning down monasteries and churches, and leveling houses with the ground.

THE DOMESDAY RECORD RESPECTING GOSBERTON.

WILLIAM the Conqueror's register of all the lands in England, is now preserved in two volumes. one folio, the other quarto, in the Public Record Office, London. Formerly kept in the Chapter House at Westminster (whence it is said to derive its name, *i.e.* : from Domus Dei), the first volume is written on 382 double pages of vellum, in double columns, the second on 450 similar pages but of one column, and all in a very legible hand—a style much more readily deciphered than that of many later documents. Begun in 1080 it was not completed until 1085-6. The survey contains a list of all tenants *in capite*, or tenants in chief, who received their land directly from the king; a statement of the value and condition of the land in each manor; and notice of any religious house or church there. Northumberland and Durham are not mentioned while Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmoreland are only detailed in part.

There being no mention of a church in the record of Gosberton in the Domesday Book, we can only surmise that the Saxon one implied by the name Gozeberdecherra, or Goseb'techirche, was at that time ruinous. The remembrance of the Saltpits herein mentioned was perpetuated in the reign of Edward III, when we meet with the name Salten Ee at Gosberton. The accompanying transcript with translation were contributed by

the late Vicar. the Rev. S. B. Sealy, M. A., to Lincolnshire Notes and Queries (II. iv. pp. 113-115).

The omitted letters in the contracted original Latin are shown by Italics.

[Original.]

[Translation]

Terra Episcopi Lincolnensis
f. 344 b. Manerium.

Land of the Bishop of Lincoln.
f. 344 b. Manor.

In Gozeberdecharcha habebat Asli I carucatē terre et VI bonatas ad geldum. Terra ad I carucam et VI boues. Ibi habet Malgerus I carucatē et XII villanos et IX bordarios cum III carucis. Et I salina III denariorum. Et XII acras prati et I sochemanum de suo orto. Tempore Regis Edwardi ualebat VI libras. Modo IIII libras. Taille XX solidi.

In Gozeberdecharcha (Gosberton) Asli had one carucate of land and six oxgangs liable to be taxed. [There is] land for one plough and six oxen. Malger has there one carucate and twelve villeins and nine bordars with three ploughs. And [there is] one saltpit worth 3d. And [he has] twelve acres of meadow and one sokeman of his garden. In the time of King Edward it was worth 6*li*. Now [it is worth] 4*li*. It is tallaged at 20*s*.

Terra Alani Comitis.
f. 348. b. Soke.

Land of Earl Alan.
f. 348 b.

In Gosebertechirche Soca Draitone iii carucate terre et II bouate ad geldum. Terra ad III carucas et II boues. De hac Terra habet Vlbret VI bouatas. Ibi I carucata et II villani et X bordarii cum I caruca. Et VI acras prati. Et II. saline XII denariorum. Alie II carucate et IIII bouate sunt in Soca Draitone. Sex bouatas tenuit Adestan; et socam habuit *(comes) Radulfus. Et be VI valuerunt tempore Regis Edwardi IIII solidos. Modo XL solidos.

In Gosebertechirche, in the Foke of Draiton [there are] three carucates of land and two oxgangs liable to be taxed. [There is] land for three ploughs and two oxen. Of this land Ulbert has six oxgangs. [There are] one carucate there and two villeins and ten bordars, with one plough, And [he has] six acres of meadow. And [there are] two saltpits worth 12d. Two other carucates and four oxgangs in the Soke of Draiton. Adestan held six oxgangs; and (Earl) Ralph had the soke. And these six were worth 4*s*. in the time of King Edward. Now [they are] worth 40*s*.

* Written over Radulphus

PAROCHIAL RECORDS.

THE PARISH REGISTERS.

IF any feature in the history of a church or parish can possess more interest to the older inhabitants or representatives of families long resident in the place, surely we should assign that position to the Parish Registers—to the record of all who have received at the same font the rite of baptism, of all the unions which have received their sanction in the same church, and of all those who have finished their course and who have finally been laid to rest in the same hallowed spot we look upon to-day. Sometimes we find such documents to possess a very wide-spread interest, reaching far beyond the parish to which they relate, by their quaint and curious allusions to passing events, casting side-lights upon our national history. This is not the case, however, here. The earliest Parish Registers in England commence in the year 1538, but not until 1597 was a stringent law enforced by Queen Elizabeth, whereby all records of this kind were to be kept in parchment books. The Civil War may possibly be responsible for the absence of any Registers at Gosberton prior to 1656, in which year the list of burials begins. The baptisms and marriages both commence three years later. These documents are preserved in an iron safe in the vestry and consist of thirteen parchment volumes. The earliest of these and the most attractive, is a

tall and narrow vellum-bound vol. of 218 folios : ending with the year 1747, the entries in which are principally made in a crabbed German text. The first page is headed thus : "A true Register of all y^e births of children in Gosberkirke beginninge in y^e yeare of o^r Lord God 1659 ; "

We quote in full the entries for the first month or two in the Register.

BIRTHS, 1659.

- 19 Jan: Fortune dr: to John Armstrong & Abigail
his wife.
- 12 Matthew sonne to Wm: Telforth & Bridget
- 24 William sonne to Willyam Story & Bridget

MARRIAGES.

- 24 Nov: Richard Audise of Surflete widower & Ellin
Pell of Gosbirkirke widow
- 9 Dec: Thomas Clarke singleman & Eliz Mattison
singlewoman
- 30 Jan: Matthew Burton of Longsutton Singleman &
Margaret Guy of Spaldinge singlewoman
were married.
- 31 Thomas Saul of Bridgend singleman & Lydia
Thompson of Gosberkirke singlewoman

BURIALS, 1656.

- 24 Oct. Bettrice wife of Thomas Edward
- 26 Richard Segrave
- 1 Thomas Lad
- 3 John Anderson

- 6 Thomas Barnet
 9 John Chapman
 16 Joel Elward
 16 Henry Hutchinson
 26 Mary Carwood
 Joan wife to John Chapman was buried
 December, y^e Last Day.

The following extracts will possess interest for
 some :—

BIRTHS.

- 1659 Feb: 19 George son of Robert Ashwell &
 Bridget his wife
 1662 Mar 25 Wm. son of Rich: Ashwell of Quad-
 ringe
 1164 June 26 Edw. son of Edw. & Eliz Ashwell
 1697 Aug 11 Eliz. d, to Ed. & Eliz. Ashwell

[Marriage.]

- 1663 May: John Cust and Elizabeth Harriman were
 married y^e 7th. day.
 1664 May 25. Ann dau. to John and Elizabeth Cust
 1665 June 5. John son to John and Elizabeth Cust
 1667 William and Obed Gemini to John and Elizabeth
 Cust
 1675 Aug: 16. Thomas son of John and Deborah
 Cust bap:
 1659 Mar : 3. John son to Robt: Garner &. Anne

- 1662 Mar 23 James son - of Robert &, Anne Garner
 1665 Sep : 8 Renata dau of Robert & Anne Garner
 1659 Sep: 20 Eliz. dau: to Rich Ansell & Eliz :
 1661 Nov: 14 Eliz: dau: to Wm. Ancell bapt^d
 1662 Jan 6 John son to Rich & Eliz, Ancell
 1663 June 9 John son to Wm & Eliz. Ancell
 1665 Mar 2 Joan dau. to Rich & Eliz. Ancell
 1667 April 11 Sarah dau. to Rich & Eliz. Ancell
-

We have extracted the following details which may have interest for some:—

1659. Jan: Richard Cranwell, Jnr: was buried y^e 29th day.

Robert Cranwell his Twin-Brother was buried y^e same day.

1661. Thomas Modd, Seniour, was buried the thirteenth day of August. more certainly the fourteenth.(!)

1660 Dec; A daughter of John Pell, unbap: was buried y^e 19th day.

[Probably interred on the north side of the church—the place assigned to heretics and suicides].

1661. Februarie. March. Isacke the Sonne of Alice Foster and of Isacke Barrett his reputed father, borne out of wedlocke, was baptized the 11th day.

[Cases of illegitimacy are numerous].

1661. June. Rachel the wife of George Lard drowned was buried the twentieth day.

- May. Mary Winckle daughter to Richard Winckle drowned was buried the 16th day.
- May. Thomas Fairebarne Sonne to Thomas Fairebarne and Jane his wife as they travel'd was buried the 19th day.
- 1665, August. William Tompson. a verie old man, was buried the 3rd day of August.
- John Plummer a poore man was buried the 21st day.
1679. Note y^t y^e roll of year 1679 is upon record in y^e office at Lyncoln.
1699. Mar: 1: Mary y^e daughter of Wm. Taylor an anabaptist born.
- Aprill 29. A child of William Dow a presbyterian born.
- 1667, Aug: Ann, wife to John Collinge, Musicianer, was buried y^e 30th day.
- [Possibly this man occupied a place with his trombone or violin, in the gallery which once existed at the west end of the church].
1688. Jan: Jane Smyth a lame girle was buried y^e 28th day.
- Feb: Thomas Turnebull a towne prentice was buried y^e 23.
- Nov: Richard Brinster a friende of John Callis was buried y^e 3rd day.
1670. Apr: John Callis friend of John Callis was buried y^e 14 day.
- [No entry similar to the last two occurs elsewhere in the Registers. It would appear that John Callis was a man given to hospitality].
1674. June 26. John son of John Callis bap:

1670. Nov: Edward Barker (a stranger) was buried
y^e 4 day.

1692. Theophilus Steed, a Londoner...Aug. 29.

— John y^e son of John Tunard & Mary his wife
bap:

1661. June. William Woodheade and Isabel Legbie
was married the eight day.

[Although at this date the records are kept with scrupulous
neatness, they are often woefully ungrammatical].

1690. Nov: 7: John son of Rich: Cawthrop & Mary
his wife bap:

1701. Aug: A stranger child, a Scotchman, was burid
20.

1712. [The entries are here marred by an ancient
spill of ink].

1719. Aug: 18: A stranger supposed to be a Scotch-
man bur:

[It is unrecorded whether thistles flourished over this grave].

1722. Dec: 7: Bathia y^e daughter of Fran: & Catharine
Bosworth.

1738. Oct: 3: Damosine, Da^r of Wm: Wyles.

[A little variety in feminine names is found in these two
entries, from the usual Mary, Elizabeth, Jane, Alice, and
Catharine].

1734. Sept: 15: Ebenezer Hardy, an adult, Son af an
Anabaptist Preacher in Gosberton, bap-
tized.

1738. Oct: 3: A Tinker's child buried. [Name not men-
tioned]

1740. Nov: Elizabeth Street, wid: aged 84, Starved
to Death in a violent Storm of Wind and
Snow on y^e 1st, and was buried 3.

1743. July 29: Elize: Runton, Widow, Agd 98.
1737. [Several children born in "the Workhouse" baptized.]
1757. A Stranger, name and age unknown, bur:
Jan: 23.
- May 11: John Orange, stranger, also — Frazier,
a tinker, a stranger.
1760. Jan: 10: N.B. Matthew, son of the above
John and Bridget Page was bapt^d at Pinch-
beck by the Rev. Mr. Townend, five years
ago, and was five years old 15th of May last.
- 1740, 46, 149. No weddings recorded.

The remarkable increase in the number of burials in the year of the Great Plague is worthy of note.

Among the families of frequent occurrence during the earlier years of the Register are:—Galliard, Tilson, Elwood, Spraggin, ffarbridge, Jakes, Jeffrie, Cawood, Russell, Kirke, Reinolds, Tunnard, Chapman, Boothbie, Noble, Devil, Norrice, Pell, Muson, Sharpe, Eley, Hill, Lister, and Crosby. The Dethes and Calverleys appear to have left us before our present register was kept.

TENTATIVE LIST OF CHURCHWARDENS

(Extracted chiefly from the Parish Registers).

1619. Edmund Angel and Thamas Peil.
1647. (?) Obed Cust & Hugh Turver.
1648. Hugh Turver & Thomas Jeffery
- 1661, ffancis Richardson : John Everitt

1666. John ffrank.
 1683. Henry Melsonby - John Everitt
 1685. Henry Harvey - Henry Usher
 1686. John Armstead - Thos: Carter
 1687. John Armstead - Thos: Carter
 1688. Samuel Pickwell - Richard Sharpe.
 1692. Richard Calthrope - John Lambert
 1694. Willi: Towers - Willia Aylofffe
 1695. Willi: Towers - Willia Aylofffe
 1697. Henry Brown y^e Churchwarden
 1708. Edmond Noble - Edward Bell.
 1709. Seth Hall - Thos. Tunnard
 1710. Thos. Lord.
 1719. William Carter
 1720. John Calthrop - Thomas Towell
 1722. John Calthorp - Willm. Ladd.
 1723. Robt: Bell.
 1725. Ed: Torner - Will: Vessey.
 1726. William Longland - Will: Vessey.
 1727. Sam Cawood. - Rob: Millington.
 1732. John Smith - Richd: Charles.
 1733. Wm: Bell - Tho: Parkinson.
 1734. Wm. Bett - Tho: Parkinson.
 1735. Robert Torry - William Slater.
 1736. ffrancis Mercer - Thomas Holmes.
 1737. Edward Noble - Bell Roberts
 1738. Ben Everitt - Bell Robards
 1739. Ben Everitt.
 1742. Geo: Sharpe.
 1743. Antho: Coy - Richard Sorby

- 1751. Richard Calthrop - J. Turver
- 1752. Richard Calthrop - J. Turver
- 1753. Richard Calthrop
- 1754. Richard Calthrop
- 1755. Richard Calthrop
- 1756. Richard Calthrop.
- 1757. Richd. Calthrop - J. Turver
- 1758. Richard Calthrop - J. Turver
- 1759. Richard Calthrop
- 1761. J. Turver
- 1762. Jno. Pacey - Robt : Allen
- 1763. Jno. Pacey - Robt : Allen
- 1764. Jno. Pacey - Robt : Allen
- 1782. Robt. Robinson. Richd. Blanchar
- 1783. Robt. Robinson - Richd. Blanchar
- 1784. J. G. Calthrop - William Dodd.
- 1785. J. G. Calthrop - Willm. Dodd.
- 1786. J. G. Calthrop - Wm. Dodd
- 1787. J. G. Calthrop - Willm. Dodd
- 1788. J. G. Calthrop - Edwd. Hare
- 1789. J. G. Calthrop - Edwd. Hare
- 1791. J. G. Calthrop.
- 1792. J. G. Calthrop.
- 1793. Edwd. Hare
- 1794. J. G. Calthrop
- 1795. W. Dodd
- 1796. W. Dodd
- 1797. W. Dodd.
- 1806. Thomas Cox
- 1807. Thomas Cox
- 1809. Thomas Cox.

The Present Churchwardens are Messrs. Thomas Smith & Reuben Bevis.

ANCIENT PARISH ACCOUNTS.

THERE exists at the present time in the parish chest in the vestry, an early volume of parish accounts—not, at first sight a very fertile source of information of an attractive kind; but from quite a cursory examination of it we have made a few extracts of a quaint character. The volume commences in 1648—the year before the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell began—and the first name it contains is that of Obed Cust, a family name honoured still in this neighbourhood. The price of the book, a parchment-covered volume, is given as five shillings, which meant much more in those days than now. The first Churchwardens' Account is here reproduced, with the names of those who signed it, shewing that several families therein mentioned are still represented in the parish. Those were not the days of free education, though we find many Gosbertonians “making their mark”!

In 1648 a man is fined for brewing a “Bushell of mault before he had his licence”; and in the same year we have a sample of old-time puritanical sabbatarianism, for it is on record that two travellers for travelling on the Sabbath day were ordered to pay a fine of “xijd.”

One link with a great historical event is found inserted under 1666, viz., a notice of a collection made in the parish for sufferers from the great plague of London of the previous year,

Time and space forbid us to collect from these accounts a list of dykereeves, "digraves" or "dicke-reeves."

The volume commences thus :

"Obed Cust and Hugh Turver church [wardens] of Gosberkerk for the yeare of or Lord [1648 ?] bought this booke price vs."

The Accompts of Heugh Turver and Thomas Jeffery Church Wardens for the yeare 1648 doth accompt and charge or selves wth Assessment granted vnto vs by the Inhabitants of the towne and the said accountants have disbursed the sum of 31 : 17 : 2 so we are indebted unto them for the sum of 2s. 10d.

Thomas Pell
Obed Cust
Geo: Metchalfe
Henrey Huningham.
Tho: **M** Money
Henry: Melsonby;
Henry **Y** Young:
Edward † Ashwell

In 1652 Gosberton had three Constables:

Willm: Bate, Bartholomew Higdon, James Marshall.

"1652 The sd. accomptants Charge themselves with the Receipt of xx^s. remainder of Tho: Girkinge saile, the rest being employed in bringing y^e deceased's body to the ground, & putting out Martha his daughter apprentice wth Willm Tomson.

"The said accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of iij lib. xijs. a legacy given by [cer]-taine deceased to buy in Coales for the poore people."

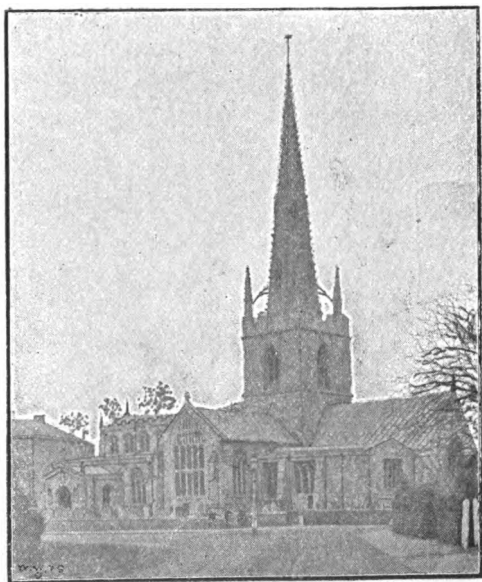
"1663. Memorand. there was xxd. forgott and the expenses amongst the neighbors when they tooke up these Accompts wch was 00—03—00."

[Gosbertonians have become more astute financiers in later times].

"1666. [In diff: hand and later ink]. The said John Bird & Wm. Richardson Collector in the parish of Gosberton this year £9 . 10 . 2 for the use of the poor distressed Inhabitance of London visited with the plague."

"1667. Richard Ansell overseer of y^e in the roome of y^e Churchmaster by the consent of the towne and Robert Boothby his appartner to the towne of Gosberton for the yeare 1666."—["Churchmaster" is curious].

1781. May 14. On this date is an agreement between the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and inhabitants of Gosberton, and the parish doctor—
"Mr: Betham, apothecary, to act as apothecary, bone-setter and man-midwife to those receiving relief from the parish, in consideration of the sum of £9 9 0."



**GOSBERTON PARISH CHURCH,
(SS. PETER AND PAUL).**

KAYE: HISTORY OF GOSBERTON.

THE CHURCH.

FOR eight long centuries at the least has the Church of Gosberton extended its kindly shelter to devoted and earnest worshippers. Overlooking the entire range of events which are chronicled herein, and viewed by almost every person mentioned in these pages—for eight hundred years has our noble church though not always in its present form—stood in the midst of the village, a fitting subject for the pride of residents, or for the admiration of passers-by.

None can fix the date of the earliest church here. Although no *ecclesia* is mentioned in Domesday Book there is circumstantial evidence of its existence in the Saxon name Gosberdchurch. The Domesday commissioners, not being specially instructed to make returns of churches, acted on their own judgment, and in some counties omitted them partially, and in others altogether.¹ The inference to be drawn is clear. But were this pre-conquest edifice of stone we have now no trace of it. Of the Norman building which followed we have many remnants, and of these we shall speak hereafter. This church, later documents tell us, was not far distant from the sea, and was liable to the sudden incursions of its angry waters. Shingle was dug up under the floor of the Nave during the recent restoration, while sea-weed has been turned up in digging in the fields hard by.

¹ Rev. J. C. Cox, LL D., F.S.A. "How to write the History of a Parish," p. 106.

The earliest appointment of a rector of Gosberton, so far as the records we have searched shew, was when Richard de Alteberg was instituted in 1208 or 9; but, while the list of incumbents during this century is complete, no mention of the church occurs before the time of Thomas de Rye, viz.: in 1291. Prior to the year 1288, the tithes had always been paid to the Pope, but in that year Pope Nicholas IV. handed them over for a period of six years to Edward I. for the purpose of defraying the cost of a crusade. So that they might be paid in full, the king ordered a taxation which was begun in all parts of England in 1288 and was finished in the province of Canterbury in 1291, and of York 1292, this was under the direction of John, Bishop of Winchester, and Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln. Gosberton contributed £33 6s. 8d., and for purposes of comparison let us look at the sums taken from other places in the Deanery of Holland.¹

				£	s.	d.
Eccl'ia de Fraunton	...	...	...	36	6	8
Eccl'ia de Algerkyrk	...	...	...	60	0	0
Eccl'ia de Sutt'ton	...	...	...	36	13	4
Vicaria ejusdem	...	...	...	13	6	8
Eccl'ia de Wyketoft	...	...	...	30	0	0
Eccl'ia de Swynesheved	...	...	...	36	13	4
Eccl'ia de Byker	...	...	...	17	6	8
Vicaria ejusdem	...	...	...	13	6	8
Eccl'ia de Donyngton non taxatur q'a est Templar'o				0	0	0
Vicar ejusdem	...	...	...	6	0	0
Eccl'ia de Quadav'yng p't' pens'	...	...	...	13	6	6

¹ Taxat. Eccl. P. Nich. IV.

Eccl'ia de Goseb'kyrk p't pens' ...	...	33	6	8
Eccl'ia de Pyncebek ...	...	66	13	4
Vicaria ejusdem ...	...	20	0	0
Eccl'ia de Surflet p't pens' ...	...	32	13	4
Eccl'ia de Spaldyng ...	...	53	6	8
Eccl'ia de Guappelade ...	...	73	6	8
Eccl'ia de Holbeck ...	...	120	0	0

Not until 1535 *temp*: Hen : VIII., when tithes ceased to be forwarded to Rome, was it deemed necessary to hold a new survey. The rents resolute then recorded¹ are: Sir Thomas Tempest 5d., Lord Willoughby 6d., Abbot of Peterburgh 4s. 9d. Frankpledge 2d., Heirs of Thomas Darley 7½d. Abbot of Swineshead 2d., Duke of Richmond 4s. 7d. Sir John M'ham² 6d., John Bolles 8d., Maurice Barkeley 2d., Thomas Holland 2½d., Edward Cawode 2d., and on the day of the anniversary of Thomas Edmonde from his foundation 8s., And from the foundation of Sir 'Thomas Tempest for the salary of the organist 6s. 8d., amounting in all to 27s. 7d., and the clear yearly value of the Chantry of the B. V. M. is put down at £6 13s. 4d. while Gosberkirk is entered at xiijs.

Ten years later as a preliminary to the appropriation of the revenues of all chantries and collegiate churches another survey was taken, and from this we get the name of another of our vicars, Henry Toplif or Topplys.

The clear yearly value of the living of Gosberton in the time of Queen Anne was £45.³

¹ Valor Eccles.

² Markham

³ Ecton. Thesaur. Rerum Eccles. p 256

CHANTRY CERTIFICATE.¹

Cantaria Beate Marie in
Gosberton.

Fundacio ignoratur, Sed ut asseritur ex relacione parochianorum ibidem quidam Thomas Tempest miles et alii feoffaverunt Ricardum Baron et alios inhabitantes ibidem in diversis terris et tenementis ea intencione ut invencerent unum capellannum perpetas divina celebraturum in ecclesia ibidem pro animabus eorundem et aliorum fidelium. Quorum exitus et proficua quidam Henricus Toplif nuper incumbens ibidem habuit et percepit qui moriebatur ante festum Sancti Michaelis ultimum preteritum. A quo die exitus et proficua terrarum et tenementorum predictorum remanent in manibus dictorum feoffatorum et tenentium premissorum Parochiani communicantes ibidem sunt quatuor centum quinquaginta et duo.

Terre et tenementa predicta valent per annum ixli viijs. vjd.

Redditus resoluti et alie reprise exeuntes extra terras predictas per annum xs. ijd. obolum dimidium quadrantem.

Clarus valor terrarum et tenementorum predictorum repris deductis per annum, viij li. xvij s. iij d. quadrantem dimidium.

Bona catalla vel alia ornamenta ibidem dicte cantarie pertinentia. xxixs.

Chantry of the B. M. in
Gosberton.

The foundation is unknown ; but as it is asserted by the relation of the parishioners there, a certain Sir Thos. Tempest, Kt., and others, enfeoffed Richard Baron and other inhabitants there in divers lands and tenements with the intention that they should find one chaplain to celebrate divine services forever in the church there for souls of the same [feoffees] and of other faithful [people]. The issues and profits of which a certain Henry Toplif, late incumbent there had and received ; who died before the feast of St. Michael last past. From which day the issues and profits of the lands and tenements aforesaid remain in the hands of the said feoffees and of the tenants of the premises. The parishioners communicating there are 452.

The lands and tenements aforesaid are worth by the year 9 li 8s. 6d.

Rents resolute and other reprises issuing out of the lands aforesaid by the year, 10s. 2½d. and half-a-farthing.

The clear value of the lands and tenements aforesaid, reprises deducted, 8li. 18s. 3½d and a half.

Goods and chattels or other ornaments there, to the said chantry pertaining, 29s.

1 Lincs. N. and Q. II. iv. pp. 115-116. Per late Rev. S. B. Sealy.

In 1721 the Dowager Lady Thorold gave £200 to the Church which was increased by another £200 from Queen Anne's Bounty.¹

An inventory made c. 1800 includes a communion table and green cloth, silver cup, chalice and paten, weighing about 66 oz., 2 boxes for the offertory, a table of degrees, a chest with three locks in the vestry—a very ancient one still in its old place—a store in the vestry, a pulpit and reading-desk made in 1722—a three-decker, which Vicar Bragg removed and had a table made from, to be kept as an heirloom for ever, at the Vicarage—a large Bible, 2 large Common Prayer books, the Kings Arms, and Ten Commandments, a church clock and a timepiece, five bells and their frames, two surplices, 10 register books—the first 1559,—1595, imperfect, and the second beginning in 1659.

There were formerly several gilds in connection with the parish church. The earliest known in England was founded by Orcy, a friend of Canute, at Abbotsbury, in honour of God and S. Peter. Primarily their object was one of mutual assistance, burial of the dead and prayer for souls, subsequently developing into the Craft-gilds; the fore-runners of the modern trades' unions. A great feature of these gilds, which were usually in connection with an altar in the parish church, was an annual feast, in which the poor were invited to take part, and a pageant which took place on the Saint's day. Several such gilds flourished

1 Ecton: *Thes. Rerum Eccl.*

at Gosberton long ago, but we know little more of them than their bare existence.

In 1498, on April the 4th, John Stybarde of the "Gilde Blessed Marie de Gosberkyrk" and the same person on April 25: of the "Gilde of B. V. M. Gosberkyrk" respectively, appears at the Manor Court of Dobbledike as a defaulter, and at every court between that time and Oct: 28.¹ Again in 1527 we meet with "Robert Cawood, Alderman of Guild of S. Mary of Gosberkyrk."² We know nothing of its foundation; but it would undoubtedly be connected with the Lady Chapel, in which at the present day the meetings of the Communicants' Gild, with the Vicar as Warden, are held every month.

The Gild of Corpus Christi in Gosberkirk, foundation uncertain, having Roger Pishey for its incumbent, who was at that time 68 years of age, is mentioned in the Chantry Certificates, c. 1547.³

The Gild of S. John the Baptist is met with in the year 1465, when the great windows of the South Transept was filled with heraldic glass and Latin Inscriptions, beginning, "Pray ye for the souls of," (enumerating various persons) "and for the brethren of the Gilde of S. John the Baptist, who caused this window to be made in the year of our Lord, 1465."⁴ One of the nave windows adorned with painted glass once bore the Latin Legend, "Pray ye for the souls of the brethren and sisters of the Gilde of S. John the Baptist who caused this window to be made."⁵

¹ Dobbledike Manor Ct. Rolls, per Lady Eliz. Cust.

² Record Off. Chant. Certif. Linc. 73.

⁴ Holles.

³ Id.

⁵ Id.

The Church is dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul. We find it known by this name in 1419, when Thomas de la Launde in his will leaves his body to be buried there,¹ viz. "in the choir of S. John." The large Chapel on the south side of the Chancel has been variously known in recent times as the Lady Chapel, the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, and S. Catharine's. The latter name we have only found on the old print of the Church by Morton, in 1795. There seems to be no authority for the second name; but the number of the testamentary burials in the Lady Chapel in early times point to it as the largest and most important. It is just possible that what in earlier days was known as the Lady Chapel having suffered violation, was re-dedicated to S. Catherine. Yet, lacking authority for this, it would surely be better that it should hereafter be known by the name of the Lady Chapel only, than, as at present by three distinct appellations, the cause of endless confusion.

Closely interwoven with the history of the Church is the story of its incumbents—a story which leads us far back through the centuries to very primitive times, back to the days of the Papal Interdict—we wonder if the parish priest continued his ministrations at Gosberton during these troublous times regardless of Papal interference?—a story which carries us back to days of darkness, of ignorance and superstition; but now and then we come upon a name which flashes like a great beacon light across the ages, whose lustre is not yet dimmed.

1 Gibbons, *Early Linc. Wills.* p. 129. In 1208 it appears to be dedicated to S. Peter alone.

THE INCUMBENTS.

RECTORS OF GOSBERTON.

1208 Richard de Alteberg, presented by Bp. Hugh de Wells.

Nov:3 Hugh Burgundia (Vicar).

1229 Magister Richard Devon, presented by Robert de Rye.

1230 Gilbert de Freilli, presented by Robert de Rye.

? Henry de Bratona or de Bretton (Rector in 1245).

1272 Thomas de Rye (Subdeacon), presented by Sir
12 Id: Nicholas de Rye, on the death of Henry de
Ap. Bratona.

1296 William de Langetoft (Capellanus), presented
18 Kal: by Sir Ranulph de Rye, Kt., on the death of
Dec. Thomas de Rye.

1312 John de Rye (Acolyte) (Rector in 1333), presented
4 Non. by Sir Ranulph de Rye as guardian of Edmond,
Dec: son of Sir Nicholas de Rye, on the death of
William de Langetoft.

? Ralph de Broke (Rector in 1335).

1344 John de Grimesby (Priest), presented by Sir
11 Kal: Nicholas de Rye, Kt., on the resignation of
Nov: Ralph de Broke.

1349 John Warde (Priest), presented by Sir Nicholas
10 Kal: de Rye, Kt., on the death of J. de Grimesby.
Oct.

1354 William de Clee (Priest), presented by Sir
10 Kal: Nicholas de Rye, Kt., on the resignation of
Mar: John Warde.

1361 William de Wykeham (Clk:) presented by
3 Id: Sir Nicholas de Rye, Kt., on the death of
Oct: Wm. de Clee.

1364 Andrew de Stratford (Clk:) presented by Sir
Id: Nicholas de Rye, on the resignation of Wm.
Feb: de Wykeham.

1362 Dns: Philip de Weston, presented by Sir
5 Id: Nicholas de Rye, on the resignation of A. de
Ap. Stratford, appointed to a prebend in York
Cathedral.

1370 Dns: Giles de Cloune, presented by Symon
July 6 Symeon, Thomas Logas and William de
Wodethorp, on the death of Ph. de Weston.

[Inquisition as to Vacancy, etc.]

1381 Dns: Robert Loterynton (Priest), presented
Nov: 15 by Symon Symeon, Domicellus, not stated.

1392 Thomas la Warre (Priest), presented by Sir
Nov: 6 John la Warre, Kt., on the death of Ds: R.
Loterynton

1394 Mag: Peter de Dalton (Clk.), presented by Sir
Dec. 15 John la Warre, Kt., on the resignation of T.
la Warre.

1402 Thomas Toneton (Caps.), presented by Robert
Nov. 20 Waterton, Lord of Gosberkyrk, on the death
P. de Dalton.

1404 Richard Flemyng, presented by Robert Water-
July 29 ton, Esq., on the resignation of T. Toneton.

1408 D's. Thomas de Barnesley, presented by Robert
Waterton, Esq., on the resignation of R.
Flemyng.

1410 Thomas Toneton (Priest), presented by Robert
Sep: 14 Waterton, Esq., on the resignation of D's.
T. de Barnesley.

1428 Nicholas Dixon (Priest), presented by the king
May 24 (Henry VI.), on the death of T. Toneton.

1432 Mag: Robt: Thwaytes (Priest, S.T.B.), pre-
Feb. 14 sented by William Bothes, Master of St. Nic-
holas de Pontefact, on the resignation of N.
Dixon.

1449 Mag. John Burgh, M.A., presented by the
Ap: 10 Prior of Nostell, on the resignation of Thos:
Thwaytes.

1461 Mag: Richd: White (Priest), presented by
Aug. 15 Henry Sotehill, by grant from the Prior and
Convent of St. Oswald, Nostell, on the resign-
ation of John Burgh.

1471, Oct. 1st. Appropriatio Ecclesie de Gosberkirk.

VICARS.

1471 Richard Milys (Clerk), presented by the Dean
Oct. 22 and Chapter of Lincoln, on the resigna-
tion of Rich: White.

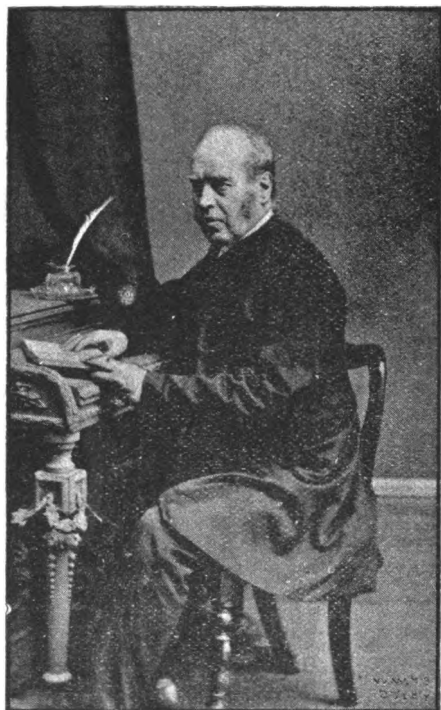
1602 George Dyer (Clerk), presented by the Dean
Oct. 2 and Chapter of Lincoln (with whom the
patronage has ever since remained), on the
death of the last incumbent.

1604 Mark Somerscales (Clerk), presented on the
Oct. 11. cession of Geo: Dyer.

1624 Henry Bell (Clerk), presented on the death
Oct. 15 of last incumbent.

1662 John Burkitt, presented on the death of the
Sep. 2 last incumbent.

[Henry Golding, described as minister, 1644-5].



THE REV. JOHN TOPHAM, M.A.

KAYE: HISTORY OF GOSBERTON.

1670 Thomas Pedder, LL.B. (not stated).
Ap. 14

1681 Robert Nussey, B.A., presented on the cession
July 22 of T. Pedder.

1702 Thomas Collins, M.A. (Clerk) presented on the
Mar. 22 death of Robt : Nussey.

1704 John Manby (Clk), presented on the resign-
ation of T. Collins.

1716 Thomas Townsend, A.B., presented on the death
Dec. 18 of last incumbent.

1751 John Austin, M.A., presented on the death of
Aug. 30 last incumbent.

1759 Wyat Francis (Clk), M.A., presented on the
June 7 death of the last incumbent.

1781 Philip Williams, M.A., presented on the death
Feb. 1 of the last incumbent.

1830 John Calthrop, M.A., presented on the resigna-
Mar. 2 tion of last incumbent.

1846 John Bragg, M.A., presented on the death of
Mar: 26 last incumbent.

1853 John Topham, M.A., presented on the death of
May 30 last incumbent.

1879 Sparks Bellett Sealy, M.A., presented on the
Nov. 14 death of last incumbent.

1895 Edgar Torr Hudson, M.A., presented on the
May 8 death of last incumbent.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

THE Registers of the Bishops of Lincoln, commencing in 1217, are older than those of any other diocese excepting York, where the records of institutions to benefices were begun three years before. But before the Institution Books at Lincoln give us any glimpse of Gosberton and its Rectors, we have ascertained¹ the names of two who officiated in our church during the episcopate of Hugh de Wells, (or Wallis), 1209-1235, before whose consecration the see had been vacant for three years. On Nov: 3: 1208,² the Bishop to whom the advowson had been granted by charter by Philip de Rye,³ grants his church of Gosbertkirke to RICHARD DE ALTEBERG as parson, saving to HUGH BURGUNDIA the vicarage for life, on payment of a yearly sum of thirteen marcs (£8 13 4) to the said Richard as parson. As witnesses to this, which is given by the hand of William of Thorney (de Thornaco), first Archdeacon of Stow, the following sign their names: Josceline, bp. of Bath and Glastonbury; William de Hammes, precentor of Wells; Th. de ffiskerton, chaplain; Walter de Well; Roger de Bohu..... Steph. de Cicestre, canons of Lincoln; Adam de Clanefield and Radulf de Warevill, canons of Wells; Will. de Lincoln; Ric. de Tinghurst; Oliver de Ched-

1 Hist. MSS. Commission Report x. pt. iii, p. 175—Wells Cathed. MSS.

2 Pontif. anno nono. Pope Innocent III. elected 8 Jan: 1198 —If, as is probable, this is old style, viz 1199, the ninth year of his pontificate would be 1208. There is therefore a discrepancy of one year between this and the date of Hugh de Wells. (Vide Migne. Dict. des Papes p. 1405.)

3 Reg. Antiquiss. Linc. fo. 42. Per Lady Eliz. Cust,

neco, etc. It is dated "Dorkecestre, Nov: 3. pontif: anno 9⁰."

Richard de Alteberg was evidently appointed rector in 1208 or 1209, though Thorney here appears as Archdeacon of Stow five years earlier than the date assigned by Le Neve,¹ and Hammes nine years before the same authority mentions him as precentor of Bath and Wells. Joscelyne had been elected bishop 3 Feb: 1206.²

Magister RICHARD DEVON—the first rector of the parish recorded in the Institution books, had been to the University and had taken his master's degree. He is presented by Robert de Rye, but is gone the next year, being succeeded by—

GILBERT DE FREILLI whose name, as those of some of his predecessors, bears a strong foreign flavour about it. Whence he came, whither he went, or how long he sojourned here, we cannot tell. One thing is certain, however, that he was not rector later than 1245, for in the third year of his pontificate (1245), Pope Innocent IV. confirmed at Lyons, 13. Kal. Oct: the dispensation granted by the Bishop of Winchester to—

HENRY DE BRATONA, Rector of Gosberde Scherrhe, in the diocese of Lincoln.³ From this record we learn the full surname of the rector, who is merely described as "Henry" in the Institution books. He appears again, this time as Henry de Bretton,⁴ parson of Gosberkyrk, together with William of York, then bishop of

1 Le Neve—*Fasti Eccles. Angl.* ii. p. 2. 2 Le Neve.

3 *Papal Regesta—Vatican—*f. 235 d.

4 *De Banco Roll*, 14 Ed. I. No. 63 m. 63—per Lady Eliz. Cust.

S.M. - This person held 700 wings etc. - brought him in
an income of 18,000 marks. Chaucer de Meibros
h. 239.

D Sarum, John Maunsell, Richard de Thurkleby and John le Frauceys, as witness to an agreement between Robert de Rye and Sir John de Rye on July 8, 35. Hen: III: i.e. 1251, at Hundeslowe (? Hounslow.) In 1268 a disgraceful affair took place in the church, to which shall afterwards refer. He died here in 1272 being followed by

THOMAS DE RYE, evidently a young man not in full orders, yet one of that illustrious family whose history is so inseparably bound up with that of the parish. Thomas de Rye can hardly be said to have held his flock "in the grandest control" for they were guilty of the most disgraceful behaviour on the occasion of the visit of their Bishop. A commission of oyer and terminer was granted by the court at Westminster on Dec. 10, 1295, to Elias de Beckyngham, Peter Malore, and William Inge on complaint by Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln 1280—1300, that, when he went to the church of Gosberchurche to preach the word of God to the parishioners and others there, and to do what pertained to his spiritual office, Ranulph de Rye, against the homage and fealty which he had done for lands held of the bishop, and Laurence de Hoddesak, having collected a multitude of malefactors, assaulted him at Goseberchurche, drew arrows upon him, and wounded some of his men.¹ *O tempora, o mores!*

WILLIAM DE LANGETOFT (1296—1312) has left us no record of his clerical duties; but on the other hand we find him carrying on the profitable business of a

¹ Cal. Rot. Patent. Ed. I., 1292-1301, p. 170.

wool-merchant, engaging in transactions with the King himself. For on Jan. 28, 1298, Edward I. acknowledges his indebtedness to William, parson of the church at Gosberkirk, to the extent of £22 11s 11d for five sacks, six stone of wool, bought for him by Robert de Basinges, in the county of Lincoln.¹

JOHN DE RYE filled the dual position of parson and squire. It may be noticed in passing that neither of the de Ryes who held the living of Gosberkirk were in full orders; perhaps like the Gosbertonian youth of to-day, they were not burdened with any præternatural thirst for knowledge. He appears to have succeeded his father as lord of the manor of Doblelike in 1314.² On Feb. 6, 1327 he brings an action³ against a numerous array including William, son of Roger de Cressy of Surflet, John de Kirketon, Kt., Nicholas Cok, Walter Nye, Geoffrey Spark', Thomas Molt' of Surflet, John son of John Warner of Boston, Adam Jonessumpter de Kirketon, John son of Ralph Cristian, Laurence Hilla-ry of Fraunton, John son of Warin de Fraunton, Alexander son of Ralph Thackere of Kirketon, and John and William brothers of the said Alexander, Ralph son of William Thacker, John Wylham and Alan his brother, John Basilesneve, John Battesson, Robert son of Clement de Buttele, John Bosse, John del Edyk, Thomas Taillour, Robert son of John, Joice Clement and Bartholomew and Thomas his brothers, John son of Robert son of Isold(a), Simon de Donyngton, Roger

1 Id. m. 32.

2 Rye Notes—per Lady E. Cust.

3 Cal. Rot. Pat. i Edw. III.

Oram, Clement Godeknave, William son of Laurence, Alan son of Robert Bailli, Ralph son of Walter Bailli, Walter son of Clement de Buttele of Kirketon, and others. He alleged that he, and his ancestors, had had a conduit from the water at Surflete to their dwelling-house at Gosberkirk, for cleansing their fishponds, support of the fish therein, watering their animals and cattle, and other necessary purposes; but that the persons hereinbefore mentioned had broken the said conduit by night and filled it with earth, to the destruction of the plaintiff's fish and injury to his cattle, carried away and burned his goods, besieged him at Boston, and maltreated his servants. He was awarded 20s. damages.

Again he sued Sir William de Cressy in 1331 for another attack upon his servants, and received another 20s.¹

On Nov: 25: 1333, we hear of our rector going to the court of Rome² on the business of his church, and having letters nominating Eudo de Bodekesham (Bot-tisham) his attorney in England for one year. He does not appear to have survived this journey very long.

On Feb: 20: 1335, after his death, the disputed possession of the manor was for a time set at rest by the king.³ Henry de Burghersh, Bishop of Lincoln, and Ranulph de Rye, to say nothing of others, presented themselves as claimants. By the king's decision the manor was handed over to the custody of the bishop until the disputed title should be settled.

¹ Rye Notes, per Lady E. Cust.

² Cal. Rot. Pat. Ed. III. 1330-1334, p. 483.

³ Id.

Col. Gervase Holles noted near the south entrance to the church this inscription on a marble slab: " Joh'is de Ry, quondam rector hujus eccl'ie, et Dns hujus ville, cujus aie propicietur Deus. Amen."¹

RALPH DE BROKE, John de Rye's successor, though details concerning him are very meagre, was a man of some importance, and appears to have been employed as a royal ambassador on several occasions.

John de Insula of Burleye when on his way to Gascony on the king's service, April 3: 1335 (9 Edw: III.) had protection² with clause *volumus* granted to him at Nottingham for one year. At the same time Bartholomew, Lord Burghersh, whose tomb is in the north wall of Lincoln Cathedral, with three others, *viz.* Ralph de Broke, parson of the Church of Gosberkirk, John le Hunte, and William de Septvans, had protection granted to them until the following Easter, whilst going "beyond the seas" on the same errand.

Two years later the rector is away for a much longer period in the interests of his sovereign, and is described as "staying" beyond the seas on the king's service. It would be interesting to know how the frequent absence of the rector was regarded by the parishioners, or whether the good man provided a substitute or not.

Of JOHN DE GRIMESBY (1344—1349) we know nothing; yet the date of his death, the year of the

1 "Of John de Rye, formerly rector of this church and Lord of this town—on whose soul may God have mercy. Amen."

2 Cal. Rot. Pat. 9 Edw. III.

terrible Black Death—the most fearful plague recorded in the world's history—is surely significant. The clergy are known to have been stricken down by this fell disease in overwhelming numbers;—two-thirds of them perished in the neighbouring diocese of Norwich alone, while, after ravaging Asia and Europe this awful plague carried off one-half of the entire population of England.

While many of the clergy in the immediate neighbourhood appear to have escaped—perhaps they bore a charmed life—it is refreshing to discover that the parish priest of Gosberkirk was faithful to the last, and indeed was even willing to give up his life for his flock.

JOHN WARDE, who resigned the living in 1354, came from "Repyng hale." In August, 1349, in the capacity of chaplain, he witnesses a charter of conveyance to Sir Nicholas de Rye. In 1362, after his departure from Gosberton, his name again figures as witness to a Rye charter, signing as "John Ward, chaplain."

WILLIAM DE CLEE, or de Elee, having by his death rendered the living vacant, Sir Nicholas de Rye appointed

WILLIAM DE WYKEHAM, clerk, 3 Id: Oct., 1361.¹ This name, which is greater than any other in the annals of Gosberton, though connected with the place but for a short time, we are proud to see upon our list of Rectors. A recent search in the Bishop's

1 Harl, MS. 6950. *Excerpta e Registris Linc.* p. 232, per J. Edwin Cole, Esq.

Registers resulted in no date being found for his institution, the patron's name seemed to be wanting, nor was it clear what became of the previous incumbent. The Rev. Dr. Hutton's extracts,¹ however, supply these details, and, moreover, shew that William of Wykeham resigned the living Id: Feb. 1361 (*i.e.* 1361 $\frac{1}{2}$), and that he was succeeded by Andrew de Strelford, clerk, who effected an exchange with Ds. Philip de Weston, prebendary of Langtoft in York Minster, Id: Apr., 1362. Canon Moberly,² enumerating the many prebends in Wykeham's possession, mentions Laughton-en-le-Morthen also in York Minster, worth 110 marks or £73 6 8, which he had exchanged on the 31st Oct. 1363 for that of Langtoft, "and this again he took (17th March, 1362), in exchange for the benefice of Gosberkirk, in Lincolnshire." There is therefore a discrepancy somewhere; yet the connection of William de Wykeham with this parish is now placed beyond dispute.

Our famous rector was the son of John and Sibil Lodge, the latter being the daughter of William Bowade, whose wife was the daughter of William and Amelia Stratton, of Stratton near Selborne.³

He is popularly supposed in this part of the country to have been a Lincolnshire man, born at Wykeham Abbey, near Spalding; but his birthplace was in reality Wickham, a village in South Hampshire. His father was in comparatively humble circumstances,

1 *Ibid.* 2 Moberly, *Life of Wm. of Wykeham*, p. 53.

3 *Foss' Judges sub Wykeham*, per J. Edwin-Cole, Esq.

although his mother was of gentle birth. He was born in the year 1324. We read that he was ordained early in life, and that he had already evinced unusual ability as an architect. In course of time he became known at court, and rose rapidly in the church, becoming successively Archdeacon of Lincoln, and Bishop of Winchester. In conjunction with the latter office he was called upon to fill a no less lofty position in the State, than that of Lord High Chancellor of England—an appointment not uncommonly in those days occupied by bishops or archbishops. In the meantime he was making a name for himself as an architect, having been called in as Surveyor of Works at Windsor Castle, while several other noble castles and mansions owe what they possess of beauty and of strength to his consummate art. He will be best remembered as the founder of St. Mary's College, Winchester—one of our greatest public schools—as well as of the venerable New College, Oxford. His style of architecture—a style of which he is generally supposed to have been the originator—is described by his biographer,¹ as the first *national* style, one that is essentially English. We refer, of course to the perpendicular—which is characterised mainly by the termination of the centre mullion in sub-arches, by perpendicular lines predominating in the tracery—and by extensive panelling on the walls. Very possibly we owe the remarkably fine and imposing perpendicular transept windows in Gosberton Church to the bold designs of William of Wykeham. His dis-

1 Moberly.

tinguished and useful career was drawn to a close in Sc
1404, at South Walsham, Hants.

ANDREW DE STRATFORD or de Strelford, was not long in getting preferment, becoming canon of York by exchange with

DNS PHILIP DE WESTON (1362—1370) being the last rector during the patronage of the Rye family. He had previously held the prebend of Langtoft in York Minster. The title "Dns" (Lat. Dominus), equivalent to the modern "Sir," was prefixed in those days to the name of a priest, and the priests of those days held equal rank with knights. The use of this title "D's" still survives in the universities to-day, being placed before the names of those who have attained to the status of Bachelor.

DNS GILES DE CLOUNE, who succeeded Sir Philip de Weston, we suspect was a true Gosbertonian, hailing from the Clough. He received his benefice from Symon Symeon, who figures prominently in the history of the neighbourhood ; and

DNS ROBERT LOTTRYNGTON (1381—1392) signs the will of the said Symon Symeon as a witness.¹ By his own will he leaves ten pounds to the fabric of his church, his portiforium and psalter for the service of the choir, a sum for two chaplains to celebrate for his soul, at Gosberkyrk for a year, and directs that his body shall be buried in the choir of Gosberkyrk church.²

THOMAS LA WARRE, or de la Warre (1392—1394).

1 Gibbons' Early Linc. Wills, p. 78.

2 Id. p. 56.

This name is still perpetuated in the parish in the place-name War-gate. The supposition that this marks a battle-field of the Cromwellian period has no foundation on fact. He was appointed by a relative, but resigned the living after two years.

MAG: PETER DE DALTON (1394—1402), who appears to have been a native of Gosberton, rose to some degree of eminence, becoming Canon and Treasurer of Lincoln Cathedral. By his will,¹ proved 30 Dec., 1402, he leaves twenty pounds for masses to be said in Gosberkyrk Church for two years, for his own soul, the souls of his parents and all faithful departed. He was buried in the Cathedral at Lincoln.

THOMAS TONETON was then appointed by Robert Waterton, into whose hands the advowson had come; but in two years we find him resigning, and a greater man taking his place.

RICHARD FLEMYNG, as William of Wykeham, is a name well-known in history. Born about 1360, in Yorkshire, Flemyng was in due time sent to Oxford, where, after taking his degree at University College, he became Junior Proctor, in 1407, being at the same time Canon of York.² On July 29, 1404, he had been appointed Rector of Gosberkirk, which living he appears to have occupied for four years, then entering on the incumbency of Boston, Nov. 27, 1408.³ In the meantime he had created disturbances at Oxford, by declaring

¹ Gibbons' Linc. Wills, p. 96. ² Steph: Dict. Nat. Blog. XIX. p. 282.

³ Jebb. Guide to Ch. of S. Botolph, p. 90. Thompson, Hist. Boston' p. 170, gives 1409 as date.

himself an adherent to the doctrines of Wycliffe; but eventually his mouth was stopped by preferment.¹ On the resignation of Philip of Repyngdon, in 1419, Flemyng succeeded him in the see of Lincoln. Several years later, presumably in consideration of his abandonment of Lollardry and of certain services to the Pope, Martin V., granted him the Archbishopric of York; this office had, however, already been filled by consent of the King, and Flemyng was therefore re-translated to Lincoln. At the instigation of the Pope, in 1428, he disinterred the bones of Wycliffe at Lutterworth, burned them and cast them into the Swift, whence they were borne by the Avon into the Severn, and thence again to the sea. In the previous year he had founded Lincoln College, Oxford, with a view to the uprooting of heretical doctrines, and the advancement of sound religious instruction. He died in 1431, at Sleaford, and was buried under his effigy, in the beautiful chantry, which he had built on the north side of the Presbytery of Lincoln Cathedral. His tomb is well known: the upper portion portrays him in full episcopal robes, while below appears a wasted effigy wrapped in a shroud.

SIR THOMAS DE BARNESLEY, if his name belies him not, was a Yorkshireman; and perchance he sorely missed his native hills in this flat fen country, for in two years he gave up his living. In 1414 he became Dean of Stoke Clare,² and this piece of preferment he retained to the end of his days. For a few months

1 Wood. 2 Le Neve. *Fasti. Eccl. Angl.* p. 164.

before his death which occurred on August 7th, 1454, he was Archdeacon of Leicester. Then

THOMAS TONETON, after six years' absence, returns and settles down in the old rectory, where he lives on for another eighteen years. On his death, in 1428,

NICHOLAS DIXON is presented by King Henry VI ; but seems to have got preferment in four years.

MAG. ROBERT THWAYTES, S.T.B., of Balliol College, was presented by Wm. Bothes, then Master of St. Nicholas de Pontefract, and subsequently Archbishop of York. S.T.B. (*Sanctæ Theologiæ Baccalaureus*) is equivalent to the modern B.D. Before coming to Gosberton he had been Junior Proctor at Oxford 1423-24.¹ Apparently a man of great learning and force of character he was elevated to the position of Chancellor of Oxford University in 1445, while still retaining his Lincolnshire benefice. He had already been Vice-Chancellor, or, according to the style of those days, Commissary, of the University, in the years 1441-42. It would appear that the needs of his parish pressed so heavily upon him as to induce his resignation of the exalted station to which he had been called in the ancient seat of learning, in rather more than a year after his appointment. Though he returned to Gosberton in 1446, Oxford had ties for him which he could not easily sever, and in three years he goes back again and takes up his abode in his old college. Then for ten years he figures as Master of Balliol, vacating the

¹ Le Neve. *Fasti. Eccl. Angl.* p. 446.

office, probably by death, in 1461. We find that he has proceeded to the degree of D.D. (or S.T.P. *i.e.* Sanctæ Theologiæ Professor) in 1453, during which year he was Vice-Chancellor of the University. This prominent and learned divine was succeeded at Gosberton by

MAG. JOHN BURGH, M.A., in 1449, who, in twelve years resigns, and

MAG. RICHARD WHITE is duly presented by Henry Sotehill, by grant from the Prior of Nostell, and instituted Aug. 15th, 1461. In ten years more his resignation comes, and with it the appropriation of the advowson to the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln.

RICHARD MILYS, the first Vicar, follows. The records, so far as Gosberton is concerned, then stop. No institution to this benefice appears before 1602, though the records go on until 1547, and are then defective till 1600. About 1545, two chaplains, Henry Topplys, or Toplif, and Roger Pishey, are mentioned. They may possibly have been vicars.

Not till 1602 do we meet with another institution, when GEORGE DYER is vicar, followed two years later by MARK SOMERSCALES.

HENRY BELL (1624) was buried at Gosberton, Feb. 6, 1661.

HENRY GOLDING is described as "minister" in 1644-5, and in 1646, July 4, an application was made in the House of Lords, for Dr. Aylett, to institute and induct Henry Golding to the Rectory of Gosberkirke.¹

1 Appendix to 6th Report, Hist. MSS. Com. p. 125.

JOHN BURKITT, the next vicar, was buried, Oct. 22, 1669. During his vicariate a collection was made in the parish for the sufferers in London from the great plague of 1665.

THOMAS PEDDER, LL.B., was ordained priest, on April 14th, 1670, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and became Vicar of Gosberton on the same day. He resigned, and

ROBERT NUSSEY, B.A., held the living for the next 21 years. He was buried Nov. 1, 1702.

THOMAS COLLINS, M.A., son of John Collins, of Betterton, Berks., gent., matriculated at Pemb. Coll. Oxon., in 1696, at the age of 16 years. He took his B.A., in 1700, and proceeded to the M A. degree three years later. In 1702, he became Vicar of Gosberton and Quadring, and is thought to have been subsequently beneficed in Huntingdonshire. His brothers, Charles and Jonathan, were both students at the Inner Temple.¹

JOHN MANBY's name appears on the parish registers from 1704, though the date of his coming to Gosberton appears to be missing in the Institution Books; and his interment is recorded on November 24th, 1716.

THOMAS TOWNSEND, B.A., had been Vicar of Heckington from 1712, and came to Gosberton in Dec., 1716. We find one word about him in a contemporary book, where he is described as a reverend divine, pos-

¹ Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*, Early I. 310.

sessed of a large estate, and providing means of education for ten poor children out of his free charity.¹

JOHN AUSTIN, M.A., follows after Vicar Townsend's thirty-five years, and lives here until his death, eight years after his appointment.

WYAT FRANCIS, M.A., the son of Wyat Francis, of the city of Lincoln, gentleman, matriculated at Exeter College, Oxon: at the age of 19 in the year 1740. He became Demy of Magdalen College, 1741, and took his B.A. in 1744, and M.A. 1747. In 1744 he became Fellow of Magdalen and retained his fellowship until compelled by marriage to resign it in 1756. From 1741-51 he had been Vicar of Heckington.

PHILIP WILLIAMS, M.A., held the living for close on half a century.

JOHN CALTHROP, M.A., who came of an old Gosberton family, first appears as Curate from 1805. He became Vicar in 1830 and resided near the Church in a building since replaced by Gosberton House, the seat of G. E. Welby-Everard, Esq.

In his time the Rectorial tithes in consideration of 500 acres of land were commuted to the Vicar of St. Saviour's, Leicester. There were at this time many curates, or more correctly assistant curates. The first, Mr. Whitford, was a distant relative of the Vicar's. The Rev. Charles Louis Wray is still remembered by some as an impressive preacher and one who took keen interest in the work of the Sunday School. Mr. Jackson

1 *Camd. Magn. Brit.* 1720, p. 1496

comes next ; and one of the oldest inhabitants tells the story of how when working as a carpenter in the Church, he was one day called by this gentleman as a witness to the clandestine wedding of a certain Gosberton lady to her tutor. Mr. Peate, another curate, lived in the house adjoining the Baptist Chapel. He was followed for a short time by Mr. Marshall, who, on complaint of the parishioners to the Bishop, was replaced by a Mr. Sunderland, of Long Sutton. Mr. Altham, who was Vicar Calthrop's last curate, was an enthusiastic musician and did much to improve the choir. Mr. Calthrop was buried Jan. 31, 1846.

JOHN BRAGG, M.A., caused the present Vicarage to be erected and though only resident here for a comparatively short time, carried out several improvements in the Church. He was interred March. 25, 1853. In Mr. Bragg's time there was a gallery extending across the west end of the church. Here was stationed a large barrel-organ, each barrel enabling the player, Mr. George Russell, to play ten tunes. It was used for the Psalms and for voluntaries. Later on the hymns were started by notes from a wooden pitch-pipe, used by the school-master, Mr. Jonathan Hanson Olliff, who both week-day and Sunday taught his scholars in the Lady Chapel.¹ The arches were then partitioned off, and the lovely oak screen recently restored, was actually boarded and plastered over.

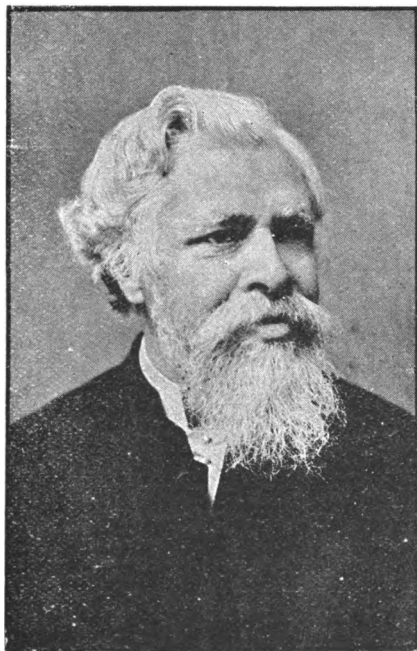
JOHN TOPHAM, M.A., of Worcester College, Oxford, was ordained to the curacy of S. Paul, Huddersfield,

¹ Messrs. Brittain Smith and Sly at different times taught in the same school.

Advent 1838, becoming curate of the parish church, Spalding, in November 1843, where he remained for ten years. On being appointed to the vicariate of Gosberton he entered energetically upon the work. Through his instrumentality the mission room at the Clough was procured. At the same time the Parish Church underwent a great "restoration" commencing in 1864, which involved the sweeping away of the gallery at the west end, the construction of new roofs for the Nave and north and south aisles, the taking down and rebuilding of the north and east walls of the chancel, and the lengthening of the chancel by about three feet eastward. The walls were at the same time chiselled, a fragment of mural painting being left in the north clerestory. The old barrel organ was then disposed of, and replaced by a small manual organ manipulated by Mr. William Russell, until a harmonium was eventually purchased. Some years later the choir was very much augmented and few services were then held without the four parts in the singing being fairly balanced and accurate. Anthems were rendered once a month and the services were bright throughout. Prior to the "restoration," the pulpit, surmounted by a sounding-board, stood on the south side of the Nave, and the font in front of the west door. During the re-flooring, one of the octagonal steps was found. High pews, panelled and numbered, extended across the transept. Mr. Topham, who was an authority on educational matters, during his twenty-six years of earnest work here had endeared himself to his parish-

ioners, and to them his sudden end produced a shock not soon to be forgotten.

SPARKS BELLETT SEALY, M.A., of Peterhouse, Cambridge, (B.A. 1849, M.A. 1852) was ordained deacon 1849, and priest in the following year by the Bishop of Ely. He became successively Curate of S. Andrew the Less, Cambridge, 1849-1859; Vicar of West Wrating, Cambridge, 1862-1866; Vicar of S. Michael's, Islington, 1866-1879, and in the latter year Vicar of Gosberton. He was also Commissary to the first Bishop of Rangoon 1877-1882. At the time of his entering on the Vicariate of Gosberton, Mr. Sealy made great and much-needed improvements in the Church. During his time—July 22: 1880—a remarkable demonstration was witnessed at Gosberton, when the Sunday School Centenary celebration was held, and an enormous gathering assembled in the Church, including 654 school children of all religious denominations to whom the Vicar delivered an earnest address on the words "One flock and one Shepherd." The visitors afterwards adjourned to the Park. On this occasion 1,200 visitors were provided for, yielding the sum of £39, while Spalding could only muster 1,600 and realize £46. The Vicar, with able assistance of the late Mr. Bollon, of Surfleet, organized a number of sacred concerts during the winter months, and from the proceeds of these, as well as with the aid of private donations, he was able to procure a valuable organ to take the place of the harmonium in the services of the Church. This was formally opened on Thursday, Sept. 28, 1882; among the clergy



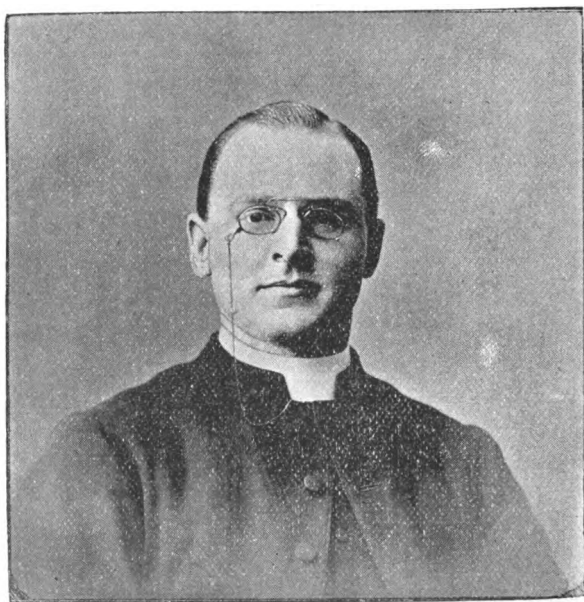
THE REV. S. B. SEALY, M.A.

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then present being the Lord Bishop of Rangoon, and the Vicars of Quadring, Sutterton, Pinchbeck and Moulton. In the following year new seats were provided for the choir. The Rev. Mr. Sealy has earned the gratitude of all interested in the history of this parish, by reason of his careful collection and record of every detail as it came to light. He was always happy in pointing out to visitors the glories of his ancient church, and fully appreciated the priceless value of the records in his care. Latterly, in spite of increasing affliction, he persisted in his duty often under great difficulties. Finally on Nov. 26, 1894, our good and genial Vicar, whose revered figure had passed to and fro before us for fifteen years, beloved by all his parishioners whatever their creed or station, passed away. He was buried at Christ Church, Cambridge, on the last day of November.

EDGAR TORR HUDSON, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, the present Vicar of Gosberton, was ordained by the Bishop of Liverpool to the curacy of S. Paul, Prince's Park, Liverpool, in 1886; he became curate of S. Alkmund's, Derby, in 1889, and of ——— Ordsall, near Retford, in 1891, remaining there until presented to the living of Gosberton. During the short period which has elapsed since Mr. Hudson's institution, a marvellous amount of work has been accomplished in connection with the Church. The entire Church, with the exception of the chancel and north transept, has been re-floored, the Lady Chapel has been adorned with a new roof, a great accumulation of rub-

bish has been cleared from it, the sedilia, piscina and a large aumbrey have been opened out, the once beautiful screen, parts of which had been sorely hacked, has been judiciously restored. the spire has been re-pointed and the tower secured with bolts, and a large portion of the Church has been re-seated. Wooden-block floors have been laid in the Lady Chapel, and the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament now used as a Vestry, which has also been lowered and now shews the sumptuous tomb of Sir John de Rye to advantage. The work has been admirably carried out by Mr. William Wade of St. Neot's. There is but one exception to this verdict and that is that it is somewhat disappointing to find that the easternmost seat in the sedilia has been slightly raised in order to correspond with a new altar step. Over £1,500 has been expended on the Church, a sum which has largely been obtained by public subscription. A grand bazaar held in June of the present year realized some £225. Mrs. Henry Everard, of Leamington, has shewn great munificence in bearing the sole cost of the work in the tower, including the bells and the addition of a new bell, and the restoration of the screen and sedilia, and is about to fill the E. window of the Lady Chapel with stained glass. Mr. Calthrop of Barton on Humber, presented a very beautiful brass eagle lectern, while the Vicar and Mrs. Hudson and their relatives have placed a handsome altar, with panels filled with tabernacle-work, and adorned with rich altar-linen, in the chancel, elaborate candelabra and other furniture. Miss Hudson is about to give a carved oak pulpit.



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Mr. Hudson has organized a Communicants' Guild of which he is Warden, and which meets regularly in the Lady Chapel. The present curate is the Rev. J. H. Robinson, B.A., L.Th. of Bishop Hatfield's Hall, Durham. *Floreat ecclesia Gosbertoniensis!*



THE FABRIC.

THE Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Gosberton, may justly claim to be one of the finest village churches in the county. Complete as a parish church, it is cruciform in plan, possessing a Nave, with clerestory with eight windows on each side, north and south aisles, south porch, central tower and spire, transepts, chancel and Lady Chapel, the latter on the south side of the chancel.

The total length of the Nave with chancel is 130 feet and of the transepts 89 feet, the width of the chancel being 21 feet and of the transepts respectively 17 feet 6 inches, and 18 feet. The steeple is 16 feet 3 inches square at the base and 150 feet in height. The area of the churchyard is 1 acre 0 roods, 30 sq. perches.

Of the SAXON Church, as we have said already, nothing now remains.

A NORMAN Church certainly existed here, of which we have still *in situ* an angle-shaft in the N. E. corner of the N. W. pier of the tower, facing the N. transept. This is of early Norman work and consists of a slender shaft with a cushion capital (c.1070-1100.) The surrounding floor has been let down in order to display the single roll-moulding at the base. Much of the adjoining masonry is of Norman work also, shewing signs of the axe, not of the chisel. Lying loose in the N. transept

is a Norman window-head, splayed slightly on the outside and deeply inside, once a portion of a long narrow, circular-headed single-light window. Two small detached bases also lie in the same place, having been found under the floor during the recent alterations, together with a fragment of chevron-moulding discovered built into the wall immediately above the E. window of the Lady Chapel. But the principal remains of this period are still *in situ* under the floor and accessible by means of trap-doors. Under the first and second of the northern piers of the nave are vast circular Norman bases, the present piers being founded upon them; a dimidiated base of the same size engaged in the original western wall supports the third pier, while the foundations of the old western wall with its recessed doorway were traced during the re-flooring operations of the present year, across to the third pier on the south side of the nave. A buttress appeared to support the dimidiated pier. The southern piers of the nave and tower rest on the foundations of the original south wall of the Norman church, the plinth of which continues from the tower to the east end of the chancel. We have therefore evidence that the Norman structure consisted of chancel, nave and north aisle divided by three bays, the aisle being covered presumably by a lean-to roof. It is well that the massive basis on the north side can now be seen by those for whom such things possess a world of interest.

This edifice proving inadequate for the growing needs of an increasing parish, portions of it were taken

down and replaced by **EARLY ENGLISH** accretions (c.1144-1272.) To this period belongs the first stage of the central tower, the four piers having clustered shafts, originally rounded. The weathering of an acutely-pitched Early English roof is observable on the W., N. and S. sides of the tower, shewing that there were transepts also at that time. Apparently quite at the end of this period the Lady Chapel was added. This is situated on the south side and is separated from the chancel by two bays, the piers composed of clusters of four shafts. The shafts forming the central pier are filleted and this seems to indicate a late or transitional date. Under the third pier on the south side of the nave, and apparently brought there from some other part of the church in order to be made useful in the foundations is a very beautiful fragment of an Early English base. Rather less than half of it remains, enough to shew that it is a part of the base of eight conjoined shafts. It consists of three rounds, the two lower being the largest ; and between them at the upper round is a hollow placed horizontally and sufficiently deep to hold water.¹

Now a remarkable change takes place—one which could only be where there was someone of great wealth to supply the means — almost the whole of the Norman work and much of the Early English was swept away, to be replaced by early **DECORATED** (1272-1377) piers and arches. During these times of

1 A very similar stone much weatherbeaten is at present in Mr. Henry Garner's farmyard. Was this originally a part of the church or of the Dobbledike Manor House, the site of which is close by? We suspect the former.

alteration the services were never stopped, but would be regularly held in some portion of the Church screened off by canvas or some other means, precisely as was the case at Gosberton during the recent restoration of the Lady Chapel. On the foundations of the massive Norman pillars were raised the beautiful Decorated piers and arches which stand now on either side of the nave. the windows on the N. side were then inserted, and upon the nave arches was erected the long clerestory, now consisting of eight windows on each side. The south porch, a work of extreme beauty, with both its inside and outside arches having their double row of mouldings filled with alternating flowers and foliage. The inside archway is surmounted by a richly crocketed ogee hood-moulding terminating in a finial. On either side is an elaborate niche with canopy. In one of them a background of red has been painted while a statue was *in situ* and one can readily trace the outline. The exterior arch is surmounted by a crocketed hood-moulding above which is a niche filled with a modern statue of S. Peter, barbarously carved from the precious remnant of an alabaster tomb of one of the de Ryes. The second stage of the tower was now reared, and the two flat headed windows inserted in the Lady Chapel, on the south side.

We have now reached the time of the introduction by our famous rector William of Wykeham, of the PERPENDICULAR style (c.1377-1509.) To this time belong the doubly-transomed and battlemented windows of five lights at the ends of N. and S. transepts, in fact

the upper portions of the transepts in their entirety, including the two E. windows of the N. transept and the single E. window of the South, together with the two nave windows between the porch and the transept. Some time between the year 1436 and 1450 the nave was lengthened westward by one bay. It was evident that this had been done, from the dividing lines in the masonry in the walls of the N. and S. aisles, as well as from the foundations of an earlier wall crossing the nave between the third piers on either side. William Whytebrede of Gosberkyrke, among whose executors were Dns. Gilbert Spirotte, clerk, and W. Stiberde, of Gosberkyrke, directed in his last will and testament, that his executors together with the executors of the will of John Thakker should "enlarge Gosberkyrk Church in length at the west-end by an arch on each side of the same structure as the rest of the arches."¹ The will is undated but appears in Bishop Alnwick's Register.² The testators' wishes were carried out : and this involved the addition of two aisle windows—that on north side³ being uniform with the Decorated examples, the other being of Perpendicular date similar to the W. window of the S. aisle. The W. window of the nave is especially fine, being of five lights and divided by two sub-arches, the whole surmounting the door, which is of no particular merit. Finally, a beautiful octagonal spire, richly crocketed

1 Gibbons' Early Linc. Wills, p. 137. 2 Bp. Alnwick, 1436-1450.

3 The original mullions and tracery of this window have been removed evidently during the present century and set up in the grounds of Gosberton House, as an ornament for a rockery ! The present mullions and tracery, though faithfully copied, are quite modern.

at its angle, capped by a finial pierced by twelve lights, and supported by four slender flying-buttresses from the four pinnacles, imparts in an unusual degree grace and elegance to the whole. The E. window of the Lady Chapel was probably inserted about 1700 and replaced a much larger one which can be traced to-day.

At some time during the CHURCHWARDEN period it is said the whole of the N. wall of the Chancel was taken down and re-built and the result is that in one of the windows the old tracery has been used again, *minus* the cusps—which have been beautifully chipped away, leaving a grotesque skeleton behind. The adjoining window with reticulated tracery is as pretty as the former is hideous. It has been surmised that the door in the N. wall of the chancel was used for gaining access to a Sacristy situated behind the High Altar, which in that case would be on a level with, and lighted by the easternmost window. It is highly probable that the priest's door at the S. of the Lady Chapel was an insertion of this unfortunate period, for it has been ruthlessly placed in a position previously occupied by an ancient canopied tomb, traces of the jambs of which still remain on either side; but the centre portions appear to have been carried out and plastered on to the outside of the building. Traces of an earlier door may be found in the masonry a few yards west of the present one.

The "restoration" of 1864-1869 was responsible for the lengthening eastward by a few feet of the

chancel, and the insertion of the very modern E. window, which is pointed, of three lights, the tracery consisting of a quatrefoil in the apex with two trefoils below, all the cusps of which are pierced. The Chancel roof, prior to this restoration had been of lower pitch, corresponding with that of the Lady Chapel, and this shewed a square-headed window in the tower of two or three lights, while the predecessor of the present E. window was square-headed, of four lights, the counterpart of that at the E. end of the said Chapel.

Descending to details, we find that the aisles, porch, and Lady Chapel have plain parapets, that of the tower is battlemented, as well as that of the clerestory which in addition has diagonal squares carved upon it. There are ten gargoyles in all upon the clerestory and eight on the tower, intended individually to typify some virtue or expose to contempt or ridicule, some vice. They are mostly appalling in their ugliness, but space will not allow us to enumerate all. One, however, is so unusual as to deserve especial mention, viz., the head of an elephant, with tusks, and trunk depending, on the E. wall of the tower. The string-course immediately under the tower-parapet is ornamented with the ball-flower alternating with curious heads. Crosses of great beauty serve as finials to the transept gables, and a modern one terminates the chancel roof. Four crocketed pinnacles, with panelled pediments (indicating Perpendicular work) from which spring graceful flying buttresses, so slender in

fact that it has been suggested that they too closely resemble cast-iron, cap the angles of the tower; three appear on the porch and a similar number on the W. gable of the nave. There is an unusually fine example of a statue of Our Blessed Lord in Majesty at the apex of the nave gable. All the roofs are leaded.

A large portion of one of the pre-Reformation altar-stones was found by the writer in June 1895 doing duty as a flag-stone at the W. end of the Church, near the font. It bears two of the five crosses (symbolizing the five wounds of Christ) is about 6 in. in thickness, and on two of its under sides has a hollow chamfer. Considered popish in puritan days, this altar-stone had been broken in two and one part placed in the floor where it would suffer the greatest possible indignity, to be trampled under foot. In 1532 Godfrey Bolles left xijd. for candles or tapers to burn before Our Lady's altar and "to the iiij other altars iiijd. each." Gosberton therefore possessed five altars in all. There are three piscinæ, one in the S. side of the Chancel, a modern one in the Lady Chapel and another in S. wall of S. transept. The latter has side shafts with pretty foliage in the capitals. A bracket for the image of a saint terminates a string-course in the N. transept. There are numerous corbels in every part of the Church of varying degrees of beauty or grotesqueness, but time and space do not permit us to enter into details. The triple sedilia of the Lady Chapel are beautiful in their simplicity. They have lately been restored

1. Maddison. *Lincs. Wills.* 1st. ser. p. 8.

by Mrs. Everard, and are at present not quite complete, being without finials. East of the sedilia is an unusually large aumbrey about six feet in height, coming almost to the floor, with three ledges for shelves, and a modern door. Another aumbrey exists in the *west* wall of the N. transept. In the lower storey of the tower is a groined roof of late work with some very fine bosses, but with ungainly corbels at the angles.

The doorway and newell stair to the rood-loft may still be seen in the N. transept, while the doorway opening on to the rood-loft itself has been blocked up.

The modern altar in the chancel is exquisitely carved with tabernacle work; the altar-rails are also modern. The altar in the Lady Chapel is of Queen Anne's time. The reading desks of the Vicar and Curate, both lecterns, pulpit, the pews, roofs of nave and both aisles, vestment chests and alms-box are all modern. The parish chest is of venerable appearance, painted white, having a rounded lid, bound with iron bands, and secured with three locks, the Vicar, a churchwarden, and the chairman of the Parish Council, each having a key.

The font is perpendicular, octagonal in shape, and panelled, with trefoiled tracery. Its cover is modern. It was removed from the W. entrance to the W. end of the S. aisle about 1867 when it was divested of its octagonal steps. The former position symbolized the entrance into the church's fold by holy baptism.

Turning to the ancient monuments in the church

we should first mention a fragment of a coped coffin lid bearing a simple cross in relief upon it, which was found by the writer, placed face-downwards in the pavement. It probably dates from little later than the Norman Conquest and possibly formed the lid of the stone coffin found in digging quite near this in the nave. There is another stone coffin outside the N. transept ; but it is rumoured that this belongs elsewhere. Several coped stone coffin lids of high antiquity now form the coping of the churchyard wall. One of these is so very ponderous that we suspect that it was in vogue at the time of the "body snatchers," early in the century, when fiends in human guise exhumed corpses and carried them off, only to return by the inducement of a large reward. Very heavy stones were therefore placed for a time over newly-covered graves. Of somewhat later date is the head of a coffin slab, bearing in a quatrefoiled recess a female head in relief, and having portions of a Norman-French inscription in Lombardic characters, round the edge :

..... AMEN : AM : + [ALIE ?] : KI :E

This is the best reading we can give though it seems to be devoid of meaning *i. e.* as to that portion within brackets. It is loose in the N. transept.

But Gosberton's greatest monumental treasure is a knightly figure reposing in a deep recess sheltered by an ogee arch with deep-cut mouldings and a superbly-crocketed canopy capped by a large finial ; having also a crocketed pinnacle on either side, and spandrils filled

with censing angels. This is immediately below the great window of the S. transept. Underneath lies a truly knightly effigy clad from head to foot in chain-mail. The head, which is pillowed upon two cushions the upper placed diagonally upon the other, is covered by a hood of chain-mail, or *coif de mailles* as it was called, which is bound by a fillet. A *hawberk*, or mail shirt protects the body and arms, descending to a little above the knee, the hands being encased in *gloves* of mail, the legs and feet in *chausses* or stockings. The knee-plates will also be observed: they were called *genouillières* and consisted of either steel or a hard species of leather termed *cuir-bouilli*. A sleeveless *surcoat* of linen or cloth depended from the shoulders reaching beyond the knees, slit upwards at the front and fastened by a girdle at the waist. On the sinister arm is a shield rounded to the body, upon which has in modern times been painted a red cross, intended doubtless to be realistic, but as a matter of fact entirely out of place. This has been omitted in our illustration. A *guige* or strap passing over the dexter shoulder held it in position. A large cross-hilted *sword* in a somewhat plain scabbard is attached to a belt passing round the hips. The feet fastened to which were long *pryck* spurs, rest upon a lion. The legs are crossed; but the old idea that this posture indicated some connection with the crusades has long since been exploded. The attitude is essentially English. Some who are known to have been to the crusades are not thus represented in effigy, while numbers who certainly did not join in the crusades are

found with legs disposed in this manner upon their tombs. This tomb appears to have been indefinitely assigned by Holles to some member of the Bolle or Bolles family solely because the window above formerly bore the inscription :

"ORATE PRO AIA JOHIS BOLLS, ARM.. ET CATHARINÆ. CONSORTIS SUÆ, THOME, EDMUND ET JULIANÆ CONSORTIS SUÆ; WILLI FIONTER ET AGNETIS CONSORTIS SUÆ; WILLI DE CHELLE ET JOHANNE CONSORTIS SUÆ AC PRO FRIBUS ET CONSORIBUS¹ GILDE SCI JOHIS BAPTISTE QUI ISTAM FENESTRAM FIERI FECERUNT ANO. DNI. 1465."

He may too have been influenced in his opinion by the fact that in his time, (*temp.* Car. I.) the Bolles were one of the most important of the families in the place, residing it is said in what is now called Cawood Hall, and one of them, Sir George, having been Lord Mayor of London in 1617. No ray of intelligence connects them with thirteenth-century Gosberkyrk.² Is it not then more probable that here is a memorial of some member of the ancient and knightly family of Rye, who play so conspicuous a part in the remoter days of our history? Their worthy descendant, Mr. Walter Rye, who has so kindly placed his published account of the family at our disposal, asserts that this tomb was known as "Captain Rye's" and suggests that it belonged to Sir John, son of Robert, who fought by

¹ Vel Sororibus.

² We have not met with their name in connection with Gosberton ante 1383.

Simon de Montfort against Henry III., was taken prisoner at the siege of Northampton in 1265, and in 1268, after his release, was arrested in this very church by Sir Nicholas, and died in 1280. The style of armour is distinctively of this period, and there seems to be no reason therefore to doubt that this is in reality the effigy of Sir John de Rye.

The effigy of his wife,¹ perhaps of later date, was removed some time ago from the South transept to a place where it is still lying in the opposite transept. The Lady is represented in the costume of the period: a *kirtle* or close-fitting garment with buttons at the wrists, and over this a loose *gown*, waistless and having short pointed sleeves, the head being covered by a *coverchef* while a *wimple* fitting tightly is wound in a somewhat absurd fashion round the neck. The hands which were represented in the attitude of prayer have been unfortunately broken off. The drapery of this figure is singularly beautiful.

Other monuments of this family are now no more, for the hand of the relentless vandal has wrought fearful havoc here. Gough² mentions a beautiful alabaster tomb in memory of Sir Nicholas de Rye and Edmond his son, bearing an alabaster figure of a knight, arrayed in pointed helmet or *bascinet*, a coat of mail, with a gorget encircling his neck and his feet resting upon a lion. The pediment had three rows of ten quatrefoils

1 According to Plantagenet Harrison, she was Johanna, daughter and co-heir of Alan de Staveley, sister to Maria wife of Eustachius de Neville, and Christina wife of Alan fil. William de Catherton.

2 Gough. Sepulchral Monuments, I, i, p. 61, and I, ii, 190.

in circles, and in the centre was a large quatrefoil in a lozenge sided by two blank shields. The sides of this fine tomb lying in the N. transept are all that now remain to us, thanks to the appalling barbarism of an age entirely destitute of all artistic feeling, laying aside any other consideration. In 1782 all that was left of the inscription was "....US FILIUS EIUS PRO ANIMABUS PROPITIETUR DEUS, AMEN. HI...." In 1740, however, Mr. Ray, Vicar of Surfleet was able to copy

HIC JACET NICOLAYS REY MILES
ET EDMYNDVS FILIYS EIYS
ANIMABVS PROPITIETVR DEVS. AMEN.¹

Dr. Maurice Johnson, founder, in 1710, of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society—the oldest provincial antiquarian society—assigned it to Sir Nicholas de Rye, Sheriff of Lincolnshire, 5 and 6 Ed. I. (1278) who died c. 1280, having obtained a weekly market for his manor of Gosberkirk. Gough erroneously refers its position to the "North aisle of the chancel now a school," meaning of course the Lady Chapel. The tomb actually remained *in situ* and is remembered by several residents in the parish now; in fact, a large fragment of the alabaster portion was applied to mundane uses in the school, for by way of punishment the village pedagogue compelled his scholars to make a circuit of the churchyard bearing aloft the said fragment upon the right shoulder! To the fate of the sole remnant

¹ Here lieth Nicolas Rey, Knight, and Edmund his son, on (whose) souls may God have mercy. Amen.

we have already casually alluded. Consigned to the tender mercies of a village stone-mason, he evolved from a knightly reminiscence of the thirteenth century, a brand-new figure of St. Peter, which was promptly inserted in the niche over the S. porch, where it still stands, an ever-present eyesore. But to return to the question of the identity of this monument. Though there were several members of the Rye family named Nicholas, one only had a son Edmond, and this was *not* the Sheriff named by Maurice Johnson. Beside this, the steel *gorget* in which he is pictured on his tomb did not come into vogue much before the close of the 14th century. Mr. Walter Rye, in his account of the family tells us that this Sir Nicholas had a confirmation of market and fair at Gosberkirk, and free warren in Gosberkirk, Surfleet, Pinchbeck, Quadring, Wyhum and Donington, in 1342; that in the following year the Abbot of Burgh St. Peter¹ recovered from him and Juliana, his wife, 140 acres of marsh in Gosberkirke; and that in 1347 as a "bachelier," he petitioned Parliament that the case respecting an annuity charged on his church of Gosberkirke, should not be referred to Rome, but heard in the King's Court; and in 1343 Bishop Becker had granted him a licence for an oratory in his manor of Beaurepaire. Of Sir Edmund de Rye, *chevalier*, we read that he was lord of the manor of Wyhum and that his wife, living in 1372, was named Elizabeth. Holles noted in a window of the S. aisle, this inscription, to still another Sir Nicolas:

1 Peterborough.

"NICOLAUS DE RY, MARGARITA, UXOR EIUS, CECILIA MATER EIUS ME FIERI FECERUNT IN HONORE BEATÆ MARIÆ;" and the inscription previously quoted:

"J^{OHIS} DE RY, QUONDAM RECTOR HUIUS ECCL^{IÆ} ET D^{NS} HUIUS VILLE, CUJUS A^{IE} PROPICIETUR DEUS. AMEN"

In the pavement of the N. transept, prior to the re-flooring operations just completed, was a portion of a grave-slab, with part of the head of a floriated cross and the last few words of an inscription: "a^{ie} p^picietur d^{ns}. amen." A stone corresponding in formation and in style of lettering, was found face-downwards at some distance away; this fortunately assigns the date: "millesimo cccc." (i. e. 1400).

At one time there was much more stained glass in the Church than now. We have already noticed details mentioned by Col. Holles. All remaining is now modern and of no particular merit. The E. window of the Chancel portrays the Crucifixion, and the Last Supper, and in the quatrefoils of the tracery are figures of Our Lord in Glory, and SS. Peter and Paul. This window is in memory of the late Samuel Everard, Esq., of Gosberton House, though no inscription indicates it. "The Walk to Emmaus" is the subject of the stained glass soon to be inserted by Mrs. Everard in the E. window of the Lady Chapel. The first window of the N. aisle represents Christ stilling the Tempest, the Feeding of the five (?) Thousand, the Raising of the Widow's Son and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. On the glass we read "In affectionate and grateful re-

membrance of William and Ann Dods." The second window of the same aisle represents, Mary weeping at the Sealed Tomb, Christ blessing the children, and Christ appearing to Mary Magdalene in the Garden. Below is a brass plate with "In cherished memory of a beloved Husband and Son; Henry Dods, aged 48 years. Henry Wayet Dods, aged 11 years."

Though without any heraldic significance many encaustic tiles have been found in the Church—some of ancient date, coloured dark green, black, yellow and red, one or two bearing a large incised diamond pattern. Many large red unglazed tiles were also found, and all are interesting in throwing some light upon the early pavement of the Church. At the present time the chancel is paved with large square red tiles, alternating with black, and set diagonally, the N. transept with red tiles, the Lady Chapel and S. transept (or vestry) with wooden blocks and the remaining portions of the edifice with Ketton stone with here and there an ancient fragment of "Barnack rag." Raised wooden flooring has been placed under all the seats and the soil beneath has been removed to a depth of about 18 inches.

The remains of some mural paintings may be faintly discerned between the clerestory windows and several pillars bear traces of previous colouring.

Gosberton Bells possess a charm for many of us the like of which can never be imparted by others. Five in number now, it is proposed to add one more shortly. The inscriptions upon them are as follows:

1. Tobie Norris cast me 1684
2. Jhesus be our speed 1618
3. Omnia fiunt ad gloriam Dei. Tobie Norris
cast me 1624.
4. William Dobson, Founder, Downham 1828.
5. T. Osborn fecit 1787.

The Communion Plate includes one silver flagon, the gift in 1745 of Mrs. Eleanor Clapham in memory of her two children; it weighs 44 oz. and is inscribed "Eucharistiæ Sacrum." Also one silver cup (chalice) with cover, weighing $11\frac{3}{4}$ oz. thus inscribed "John Calverley (?) Vicar; Edmund Angel, Thomas Peil, Churchwardens, 1619." Also one silver paten weighing $12\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and having a cross scratched underneath; the hall marks shew the date to be 1635-6. There are also two brass plates and two oak plates which were given by Mrs. Burgoyne.

The Organ, built by Mr. W. M. Holdich, of Islington is a fine instrument. It consists of two whole rows of keys, viz. the great and the swell organ, the compass being from CC to F in alt. and contains:—

Great Organ.—Open diapason, bass, 8 feet; open diapason, treble, 8 feet; stopped diapason and clarabella, 8 feet; principal, 4 feet; fifteenth, 2 feet; mixture; flute, 4 feet.

Swell Organ.—Open diapason, treble, 8 feet; stopped diapason, bass, 8 feet; ditto, treble, 8 feet; principal, 4 feet; trumpet, 8 feet.

Pedal Pipes.—16 feet Bourdon. Two octaves, from CCC.

Couplers.—Great to pedals, small to great, swell to pedals, two composition pedals to act on the great organ stops; two ditto to the swell organ.

The Churchyard contains 1 ac. 0 roods 30 sq. pls. Within the memory of older inhabitants there once stood the stump of an ancient cross near the S. porch from the steps of which the parish clerk was accustomed to give out notices after the morning service. Such notices were not by any means confined to matters ecclesiastical, but often had reference to forthcoming sales by auction and the like. The socket of this cross, we believe, is now lying against Mr. Everard's garden-wall—within the church-yard. Portions of reticulated tracery, possibly from the old east windows will be found here also.

The following is a complete list of the monumental inscriptions now remaining in Gosberton Church:—

IN THE CHANCEL.

On Floor.

CAPT. HENRY CALTHROP, OF THE 10TH FOOT, SON OF J. G. CALTHROP, OF GOSBERTON, ESQUIRE. Born 1789 d. 1826.

On S. Wall.

EDNA JANE, ONLY DAU. OF JAMES T. CALTHROP & EDNA HIS WIFE. B. May 1834, d. June 1844.

On N. Wall.

JOHN GEORGE CALTHROP, ESQUIRE, d. Mar 11, 1815, aged 65. ALSO ANN HIS WIFE, d. Dec. 24, 1806, aged 53.

The victory of Jesus Christ over death, giveth to their sorrowing children, a more and certain hope of being again united to their beloved and excellent parent.

(Shield of Arms).*

SQUIER CALTHROP, formerly of Boston, and one who feared God. B. Jan. 4. 1746, d. Oct. 7, 1827.

IN THE NAVE.

On Floor.

JOHN, SON OF MR. ROBERT ALLEN. BY ANN, HIS WIFE, d. Jan. 10, 1790, aged 25.

ALSO ANN, THEIR DAU. died May 29, 1779, aged 18.

ALSO SIX SONS AND FIVE DAUGHTERS, d. in infancy.

ALSO ANN, THE WIFE OF MR. ROBERT ALLEN, d. July 29, 1790, aged 53.

ROBERT ALLEN, GENT., d. July 11, 1805, aged 72.

ELIZABETH ALLEN, DAU. OF MR. ROBERT ALLEN, BY ANN HIS WIFE, d. Dec. 10. 1795 aged 19.

HARRIET, WIFE OF WILLIAM DODS, AND SECOND DAU. OF RICHARD GLEED, ESQUIRE, d. Dec. 26, 1844, aged 35.

Her humility was deep.

Her meekness truly Christian.

Her love to God genuine and sincere.

Her deportment amiable and pleasing, and

Her dependance solely on the perfect righteousness of Christ.

ALSO TWO CHILDREN who d. in infancy.

ALSO WILLIAM DODS, who d. Jan. 13, 1863, aged 56.

* Arms: Chequy or and az. a fesse ermine. Crest, a salamander in flames, ppr. Motto, *Victrix fortunæ sapientia.*

FRANCIS EASTLAND, of this Parish, Gent., d. July 16, 1804, aged 69.

Mors Christi, vita mihi.

ALSO MRS. ANN EASTLAND, WIFE OF ABOVE, d. Oct. 19, 1797, aged 50.

If e'er lost worth could claim a sigh sincere
 Stay passenger, and pay thy tribute here,
 Here flourish'd once whilst Heav'n did life impart
 A soul seraphic and the purest heart,
 From Wisdom's sacred fount she largely drew
 Knowledge divine, and practis'd what she knew,
 To all alike her friendly help display'd
 Where pity prompted, Charity obey'd,
 Such was her worth whate'er was wanting here,
 Is now completed in a happier sphere.

SQUIER CALTHROP, d. Oct. 7, 1827, aged 81.

J. C. M.A. 1785

M. C. 1800.

On E. Wall.

(In blue and white marble)

JOHN CALTHROP, M.A. Vicar of Kirton 40 years, Vicar of Boston 39 years, a prebendary of the Cathedral Church of Lincoln, a representative of the Clergy of this Diocese in convocation A.D. 1774 and an acting magistrate for these parts 21 years. Having filled these several stations ably and honourably, and discharged all his relative duties faithfully, he departed this life to receive (as we trust) in another through the merits of his Saviour an abundant recompence of his labours, 17 May, 1785, æt. 66.

In the same vault the remains of MARY CALTHROP, his relict, d. Jan. 17, A.D. 1800, æt. 77.

(Shield of Arms).¹

REVD. JOHN CALTHROP, Clerk, many years vicar of this parish, d. 14 Jan. 1846, aged 62.

ALSO BARBARA (BONNER) his wife, d. 5 Jan. 1866, aged 83.

Also their children :

JOHN GEORGE, d. 23 Nov. 1862, aged 51.

HENRY JAMES, d. 27 Mar. 1875, aged 56.

WILLIAM HENRY, d. in Australia.

BARBARA ANN, d. 14 June, 1886, aged 72, for 42 years wife of Edgar Leopold Layard, Esq., C. M. G. of Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Service, who erects this tablet in accordance with her last wishes and in memory of her he loved so well.

(Shield of Arms).²

IN THE NORTH AISLE.

On Floor.

JOHN W. MERTON, d. Jan. 18, 1822, aged 57.

ALSO MARTHA W. MERTON, relict of above, d. June 11, 1863, aged 83.

¹ Chequy or and az. a fesse ermine, for Calthrop. imp. arg. a chevron ermines between three lions passant gardant sa., for Dobbs (?). Crest, a salamander in flames ppr.

² Gu. a chevron between two mullets radiated pierced or and a crescent arg., on a chief az. three mullets as before, for Layard, imp. chequy or and az. a fesse ermine for Calthrop. Crest, on a ducal coronet or, a mullet as in the arms. Motto, *Invante Deo.*

ELIZABETH, DAU. OF JOHN & SARAH W. MERTON, d.
June 27, 1823, aged 26.

ALSO MISS ELIZABETH W. MERTON, d. Mar. 18, 1795,
aged 38.

SARAH, WIFE OF MR. JOHN W. MERTON, deptd.
May 4, 1808, aged 38.

ALSO JOHN W. MERTON, d. June 15, 1841, aged 52.

On Wall.

HARRIET, WIFE OF WILLIAM DODS, d. Dec. 26,
1844, aged 35. Also two of their infant children.

WILLIAM DODS (of Gosberton), d. Jan. 13, 1863,
aged 56.

IN THE SOUTH AISLE.

On Floor.

A Blue Slab near S. porch, name and date illegible.

Blue Slab in S. doorway, with matrices of brass
(inscription and small shield of arms).

MR. ROBERT PEACH, d. May 25, 1781, aged 34.

MR. FRANCIS DYSON, d. Oct. 25, 1770, aged 49.

On Wall.

E. J. S.

REVD. SPARKS BELLETT SEALY, M.A., for 15 years
Vicar of this parish entered into rest Nov. 26, 1894, in
his 70th year. "In thy presence is fulness of joy."
This tablet was erected by the parish(i)oners.

MRS. ANN ROBINSON, (late of Spalding), d. Sept. 8, 1859. in her 87th year.

ALSO HER SISTER, MRS. MARY ROBINSON, d. Jan. 7, 1840, in her 85th year.

During life they were seldom separated beyond a single day, and in death they were not long divided; they died under the firm faith of an immortal re-union.

GEORGE MAXWELL EDMOND, late of Spalding, d. Dec. 18, 1847, aged 74. ALSO ANNA MARIA, his relict, (the only dau. of John Robinson, late of this place) d. Jan. 25, 1855, in her 79th year.

IN THE LADY CHAPEL.

On Floor. At E. end, N. of altar.

MRS. SARAH NELSEY, WIDOW, interr'd Mar. 12, 1750, aged 63.

ALSO DANIEL NELSEY, her husband, interr'd Sept. 30, 1722.

ALSO ANN, her mother, widow of Mr. Samuel Cawood, interr'd Nov. 25, 1720, and EDWARD CAWOOD, her brother, interr'd Feb. 19, 1710, aged 27.

Large white marble slab on N. side.

RICHARD GEORGE CALTHROP, b. June 4, 1819; d. Nov. 25. 1874.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life."

On North Wall.

JOHN ROBINSON, b. Mar. 5, 1748; d. May 17, 1821; and MARY his relict, dau. of Dinham Atkinson of Horncastle, b. June 2, 1754; d. June 27, 1822.

They lived respected and they died lamented.

ROBERT ROBINSON b. June 21, 1749; d. Apr. 17, 1790; and REBECCA, his relict, dau. of Rev. John Tatam, Vicar of Whaplode, b. Oct. 31, 1750; d. Nov. 12, 1810. Also ROBERT their eldest son, b. Aug. 30, 1782; d. Mar. 31, 1803; and two children who died in infancy.

JOHN ROBINSON, Gentleman, interr'd near this place Jan. 21, 1759; aged 40.

HANNAH ROBINSON, his relict, d. much and deservedly esteemed, June 28, 1810; in her 86th year.

JOHN ROBINSON. Gent. who after having faithfully serv'd his generation was interr'd (near this place) Sept. 16, 1719; aged 37.

Also MARY, his wife, eldest dau. of ——— Cawood, Gt., was interred Jan. 10, 1754; aged 64.

IN NORTH TRANSEPT.

On Floor

ANN, WIFE OF ROBERT KEMP, who dep. this life Oct. 1, 1798; aged 63.

Also 4 grandchildren who d. in infancy.

ROBERT KEMP dep. this life July 5, 1817 in the 184th¹ year of his age.

Beneath this stone rest the remains of HANNAH,
THE BELOVED WIFE OF WILLIAM ——— NORTH, Gent.
formerly of this parish, who d. Mar. 30, 1833 ; aged 59.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

IN MIDDLE TRANSEPT.

On Floor.

In memory of ANN, dau. of DANIEL AND PENELOPE
ALLENBY, of LONDON, who was suddenly taken away
from the tender endearments of her disconsolate friends
while on a visit at the house of her UNCLE, JOHN
GEORGE CALTHROP, of GOSBERTON, on the 5th of Oct.
1794 ; at the early age of 17 years and 10 months.

Sacred to Friendship be this hallowed strain !
Entomb'd with relatives here Anna lies
Angels triumphant swell the heav'nly Train
Which waft her spirit in the distant skies
Her parents' grief was as their love sincere
And o'er her Urn affection drops a tear !!

Here lies the body of MR, THOMAS CALTHROP, who
d. on the 25th of July, 1761 ; in the 58th year of his age.

Here lyeth interr'd the body of BARBARA, the wife
of MR. JNO. CALTHROP who dep. this life the 20th day
of Aprill Annoq. Dñi 1729 in the 53rd year of her age.
Also here lyeth interr'd the body of JOHN CALTHROP,
Gentleman, who departed this life the 6th day of Oct.
Annoq. Dom. 1740, in the 50th year of his age

¹ Some have thought that Robert Kemp actually outlived " Old Parr "
and Henry Jenkins, whereas a closer examination of the stone would have
shewn them that 100 years had been added to his age by the insertion of
the first figure.

Here lyeth interred the body of MARY, the dau. of Mr. John Calthrop, and Barbara his wife.

[Illegible].

M C

1780

<p>Here lyeth y^e Body of Barbar^a the daughter of John and Barbar^a Calthrop, who Departed this life, October y^e 30th 1716 Here lyeth . . . [Illegible].</p>	<p>Here lyeth the Body of Richard the son of John and Barbara Calthrop who departed this life June y^e 2^d 1718 Aged 3 years . . . y^e body Barba Calthrop [Illegible].</p>
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Here lyeth y^e body of MR. RICHARD CALTHROP, who departed this life y^e 19th day of January, Anno. Dom. 1710, in y^e 55th year of his age. MARY, his wife, ob. 14 Feb. 1693.

In memory of MARTHA, Relict of Richard Calthrop, Gentleman, who was interred the 7th day of May, Annoq. Dom. 1719, aged . . .¹ years.

¹ The number of years has been omitted.

Also ELIZABETH, Relict of Hugh Christopher, Gent, and dau. of Richard Calthrop, Gent, was interred the 2^d day of April, Annog. Dom. 1732, aged 37 years.

And ANNE, relict of Mr. Nathanael Garland, and dau. of Richard Calthrop, Gent., was interred the 23rd day of February, Annog. Dom. 1739, aged 42 years.

By the remains of his grandfather here lies the body of RICHARD CALTHROP, gent. who d. 17th April, 1762, aged 38 years

In the same grave lie two of his children and seven more surviv'd him.

His relict, MRS. MARY CALTHROP, died the 23rd of January, 1780, in the 52nd year of her age.

Here lye FRANCES & MARGARET y^e two daughters of Tho. Townsend, Vic., & Anne his wife. Ob. 1724 Ætat. 1^m

[Shield of Arms.]¹

MR. RICHARD CALTHROP, of Boston, Merchant, d. on the 8th of Nov. 1759. in the 59th year of his age and is here interr'd.

IN SOUTH TRANSEPT.

On Floor.

....²

1802

B C C

1866

¹ Chequy or and az. a fesse ermine, for Calthrop, imp. on a fesse gu. three besants or, between vert and a runaway hog (?) arg. and three covered cups or (?) for Kelham (?). Crest, a salamander in flames ppr.

² Initials at present time inaccessible.

MRS. B. A. LAYARD, d. 14 June, 1886, aged 72.

HENRY JAMES CALTHROP, d. 27 Mar. 1875, aged 56.

M. C. 1813.

J. C. 1844.

S. C. 1826.

MARY, dau. of John and Jane Kew was interr'd near this place July, 1774, aged 18.

IN NORTH TRANSEPT.

On Floor.

To the memory of ROBERT KEMP, who died Octo. 12th, 1817, aged 50 years.

ANN, relict of Robert Kemp, died Feb. 6th, 1830, aged 65.

SAMUEL, son of Robert and Ann Kemp, died Dece. 1st, 1829, aged 27.

Near this spot are interred the earthly remains of

ANN BARBARA

born Nov. 5th, 1809. d. May 2nd, 1823.

FRANCES CALTHROP

b. Ap. 7th, 1811, d. Mar. 9th, 1823,

HARRIET

b. Nov. 6th, 1821, d. Dec. 16th, 1833,

JAMES THOMPSON

b. Dec. 6th, 1818, d. Apr. 18th, 1819,

Children of CHARLES BONNER & ANN, HIS WIFE, of Spalding in this County.

They have passed from earth to God.

Also the remains of BARBARA, the relict of Charles Bonner, of London, and dau. of the late Richard Calthrop of this place, b. Nov. 12th, 1753, d. Feb. 17th, 1829.

Loose, in North Transept.

In memory of ELIZABETH, THE WIFE OF THOMAS HOLMES, who departed this life, May the 14th, 1738, aged 31 years.

ALSO ROBERT JOHN and HENRIETTA, their children, lye near her.

Loose, and found during reflooring of the Church.

SARAH, wife of Danl. Porter & dau. of Mr. Wm. Kirk, sen., late of Grantham, who was inter'd July 3, 1742, aged 41.

ABSALOM VELLUM, Thatcher, who d. Jan. 2, 1756, aged 38.

THOMAS HOPPER who d. June, .. 1763, aged 45 years.

ALSO HANNAH, his dau. d. July 26, an infant.

JOHN HULTON, JUN., who departed this life, August, the 27th, 174., aged 27. Also two children.

IN THE SOUTH PORCH.

On Floor.

x In hope of eternal life. x



This stone is placed as a mark of esteem by the parishioners of Gosberton and Clough District, in memory of the REV. JOHN TOPHAM, M.A., Vicar of this parish 26 years, who died June 2nd, 1879, aged 66 years.

ALSO in memory of JANE, widow of the above who died Feb. 13, 1892, aged 81 years.

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

x Unto you therefore which believe He is precious. x

Heere lyeth the body of WILLYAM FLINTHAM, buried June the 9, 1634. Heere lyeth WILLIAM FLINTHAM, his sonne, buried November, the 28, 1624.¹

IN MR. HENRY GARNER'S YARD.

Matthew Stub
bley buried
April 21, 1699.²

¹ This inscription would seem to be that which figured on exterior of S. wall of Transept in Morton's engraving of the Church in 1795. Robert Harmstone noted its position there in 1846.

² We would suggest that this fragmentary stone would find a more fitting resting-place in the North Transept. Matthew Stubbley, tradition tells us, came from Horbling. This is borne out by the following extracts from the "Horbling Registers" transcribed and published in 1895, by Henry Peet, F.S.A.:

Bapt. 1665, Feb. 28, Matthew, s. of Jeffory and Sarah Stubbley.
Mar. 1686, May 6, Matthew Stubbley and Ann Stubbley, both of this town.
Bap. 1692, Oct. 2, Matthew, s. of Matthew and Ann Stubbley.
Bur. 1695, Oct. 18, Anne, wife of Matthew Stubbley.
Mar. 1696, May 12, Matthew Stubbley and Mary Randal, both of Horbling.
Bap. 1697, June 6, Francis, s. of Matthew and Mary Stubbley.
Bap. 1698, July 2, Mary, d. of Mary, ye Relict of Mat. Stubbley.

IN THE CHURCHYARD.

Railed off against W. wall of N. Transept.

WM. DODS, aged 67, 22 June, 1838.

ANN DODS, aged 90. Mar. 1, 1862.

A. D. 1801.

H. D. 17 June, 1806.

F. D. 28 Dec., 1811.

S. D. 3 Feb., 1814

At W. end.

JOHN, son of JOHN & ELIZABETH KNIGHT, of this parish, and apprentice to Thomas Styles, Esquire, Surgeon, of Pinchbeck, who was killed by being thrown from a young horse which he had incautiously mounted, Sept 18, 1836, aged 19.

On a flat tomb of granite, in chamfer, the top being adorned with a cross and wreath.

(S) I will not leave you comfortless, I will come unto you.

(E)

In memory of
SAMUEL EVERARD,
Born, 1792. Died, 1877.

(N) In my Father's house are many mansions.
If it were not so, I would have told you.

GOSBERTON CHARITIES.

FROM the report issued by the Commissioners for enquiring concerning Charities, and dated June 30, 1837, we extract the following :—

Henry Cawood (date unknown) from income derived from certain lands in Quadring, directed that one blue cloth gown should be given annually to the poorest man in the village, the residue to be expended in white bread for the poor. He left also tenements for four poor widows, and the interest of £10 to the Incumbent for preaching a sermon on anniversary of his funeral.

John Shaw and *Thomas Read* in 1614 & 1616 respectively, gave together £5 8 0 to be expended on coals.

Sarah Nelsey—(1746-50) gave in all £55 the interest of which to be applied to (1) a blue serge gown for an aged widow, (2) an annual sermon, (3) 20 poor widows and (4) 30 of the poorest people attending the sermon aforesaid.

Sir Charles Montague (date unknown) left £20 with which have been purchased three acres of pasture land known as “ Harps,” the profits being distributed among the indigent poor.

Henry Gate (c. 1707) bequeathed his own cottage (subsequently) divided into eight tenements, either that the profits arising therefrom should be annually distributed among the needy and impotent, or else that some of the poor inhabitants should dwell therein. It is now occupied by eight widows and is known as the Widows' Row.

John Burton, of Surfleet, (date not specified) gave 3 acres 3 roods of pasture and meadow in Surfleet, the profits of the same to be disposed between the poor of Gosberkirk and Surfleet, being "no alehouse haunters, nor given to other notorious vices."

Anthony Death (date unknown), formerly of Heckington, left the sum of £33 6 8 for purchase of lands, the rent of which was to be utilized for an annual sermon on Ascension Day, a gown of black cloth "made fit for the back of one poor man of Gosberkirk, that was born in the said town," and the overplus, if any, to be bestowed in twopenny loaves amongst the poor.

John Calverly (no date) left the interest on £10 for the poor of the parish.

John Pell (no date) gave 1 acre 1 rood, the yearly profit on which to be disposed among the poor and impotent.

Roger Fowler (no date) bequeathed a sum, not specified, for purchase of lands, to be applied to the use of the poor.

Ann Martin (date unknown) formerly of Wigtoft, left the annual sum of 10 shillings, charged from a messuage and $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land in Gosberton.

John Horn (no date) left £20 to which the inhabitants added £5 with which land was purchased near Lowbridge.

Edward Cawood gave a rent-charge of 30 shillings of pasture ground called "John of Cheales," also 20 shillings and a further sum of 30 shillings for: (1) a

blue cloth gown to be given to the most poor and needy and "ancient inhabiting man" in Gosberton, annually, and (2) the remainder for expenditure in white bread for poor. Also ten shillings yearly for a sermon on his funeral day—should this fall on Sunday, on the day following—in case of neglect to be given to ten poor widows.

Henry Harvey left 10 shillings yearly for the poor, and 2 shillings for twopenny loaves for twelve poor widows.

William Lambert bequeathed 20 shillings to be paid annually to the poor.

John Wright left another 20 shillings for yearly expenditure on white bread for the poor.

John Runton left £10, which appears to have been lost sight of so long ago as 1778.

Richard Calthrop left 10 shillings to be applied from rents of land at Quadring Eaudyke, to the Vicar of Gosberton for preaching an annual commemoration sermon on his funeral day, the residue to be laid out in white bread and given to the most needful poor.

Thomas Webster left half an acre of land; but in 1786 it was said nothing had been received from the land—nor does anything appear to have been since.

In 1836 the above charities appear to have produced £75 18 8.

Robert Marjoram (1682) endowed the Free School in the Rysegate. In 1837 the land produced £28 per annum. Election of a master rests with the heirs of

Sir Henry Heron and the Vicar of Gosberton for the time being.

Rev. John Calthrop (1767) directed by will that the proceeds of certain tolls should be distributed in the shape of religious books among honest families and the servants therein; that 5s. should be awarded to that servant who should have served longer than any other in any one family in the parish; that 10 shillings should be divided between two of the best labourers, having families, or between one such labourer and one industrious widow, having a family; that 3 shillings be paid to the sexton if he should sweep and keep clean the southern half of the cross aisle of the parish church, where testator was subsequently buried; and that the following books, should be purchased with the residue: "The Whole Duty of Man," Earl of Edmont's "Great Importance of a Religious Life," and several of treatises of Dr. Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man, or such as might be appointed by the S. P. C. K. In 1881 this Charity consisted of an endowment fund of £53 16 7 Consols.

Elizabeth Hopper (May 30, 1778) by will, after naming certain other legacies, appoints Stephen Garwell, Richard Casswell, and Francis Masten "executors in trust for the poor of Gosbertowne." Messrs. Richard Casswell and John Casswell, his son, whilst living annually distributed about £9 or £10, which was for some years known as "Hopper's Dole."

An entry in the parish book shewed the following

statement of moneys in trust of Richard Casswell, on Dec. 20, 1783.

	£	s	d
Balance of her accounts and in his own hands	28	3	9
In hands of George Chapman	140	0	0
Richard Casswell, jun.	40	0	0
Thomas Mayden	10	0	0
John Broughton	8	0	0
Samuel Dotching	20	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£246	3	9

Legal difficulties afterwards arose and the money is now out on mortgage of an estate at Donington.

In accordance with the wishes expressed during her lifetime, of *Ann Trueman Bankes* (Nov. 10, 1835) wife of Robert George Bankes, paymaster of H. M. 16th Regiment of Infantry, her husband left £400, the interest on which to be applied to support of "24 of the oldest and most indigent and discreet females inhabiting or dwelling within the respective parishes of New Sleaford and Gosberton, aged widows and single women far advanced in life to be preferred (that is to say) 12 in each parish." The following were trustees: the Rev. Richard Yerburgh, D.D., William Forbes, Esq., and William Dods, jun., Esq.

——— *Watson*, left a sum, which in 1837 brought in £4 annually, exclusively for Baptists.

Crawford's Charity is mentioned in a MS. book left by the Rev. S. B. Sealy, the late Vicar, who states the Rev. John Topham had been accustomed to spend it in paying the premiums on the Children's Club and in Flannel, etc., for the poor.

GOSBERTON AND THE DRAINING OF THE FENS.

NO history of this parish could well be considered complete without reference to the vast work of draining the fens—a work begun in this district so early as the reign of Ed. I. (1272-1307). From the numerous records preserved, by Sir William Dugdale, in his “History of Imbanking and Draining,”—some of which we have seen in the British Museum, or Public Record Office, London,—we cull those we deem likely to prove of the greatest interest.

In 9 Edward II. (1315) Lambert de Trekyngham, Roger de Coppeldyk, and Robert de Malberthorp, King's Justices of Sewers, sitting at Boston, said that the town of Quadring ought to scour and repair the “chanel” to Gosberkirk, and that the town of Gosberkirk ought to do the like from thence to the sea, as the stream of Byker was obstructed through the neglect of the people of Donyngton, Quadring, and Gosberkirk. And furthermore, that the sewer called Risgate Ees was stopped by the Abbot of Peterborough and town of Gosberkyrk, and that the said town ought to cleanse and repair it. Likewise that the sewer of Beche, for which Gosberkyrk, Pynsebek and Surflete were responsible, was obstructed, one William de Hodell, having raised a bank athwart the sewer.

That Gosberton was once a sea-side church, is abundantly proved by the quantity of silt and shingle found when digging in and near the churchyard. We have heard too, on good authority, that seaweed has been upturned during the laying of foundations for houses in the village. We read that the neighbouring village of Algarkirk was largely inundated by the sea in the time of William the Conqueror. And beyond this we have incontestable proof from an entry in the Registers of Peterborough, that the sea overflowed land in Gosberton in or about the year 1292 (Edw: I.): for in that year the Abbot of Peterborough brought an action against Ranulph de Rye and Philip Phiket and others, for dispossessing him of forty acres of marsh-land, etc., in Gosberkyrk. Defendants pleaded that the abbot was not seised of the premises, and besides, that when the sea "by its raging" overflowed any man's land and made a hollow place, it was his duty to drain it for the good of the country, and not to fill it up. They stated that they had drained such land eighteen years before. The Abbot however, maintained that this was "his own several ground," and obtained a verdict in his favour, with damages assessed at twenty shillings.

An inquisition was held in Gosberchirche in 1294, before Adam de Crokedayk and William Inge, which decided that the Rysgate Gote required repairing at hands of the people in the parish, and that the town of Gosbercherche should renew a sewer which formerly

(Dudg : 223)

ran into the marsh there; also that Ranulph de Rye should open at his own expense the sewer at Rysgate. And furthermore that the people of Gosberchirche must remove obstructions in the river of Biker, the sewer called New Gote, and the sewer of the Beche.

In the year following, the Abbot of Peterborough made an agreement with Sir Hugh de Cressey, Sir John de Ry, James de Bark, and other inhabitants of Gosbercherche and Surflete, whereby the Abbot released to them any action in respect of trespass done to them touching the sewer, and granted that they should make and maintain a sewer, twenty feet in width, to the sea.

A long suit was commenced in 1342 (16 Edw: III.) in which the Abbot of Swinesheved claimed 200, and Sir Nicholas de Rye, 140 acres of marsh, from the Abbot of Peterborough; but before the assizes at Lincoln, a number of influential gentlemen, including Sir John de Wilughby, Lord of Eresby, Sir John de Kirketon, Sir Saier de Rochford, Gilbert de Stanford, Cellarer to the Convent, John de Achirche, and John de Multon, parson of Skirbeck, with Sir Nicholas de Cantilupe, endeavoured at a meeting in the Chapter-house, to bring matters to an amicable settlement, with the result that it was resolved to refer the case to twelve arbitrators. On the day appointed they met at Gosbercherche, but without any satisfactory result.

(Dugd: p. 234).

Judges then appointed a certain day for hearing the case at Lincoln, and the defendants made ready, but no one appeared to prosecute—the plaintiffs being dissatisfied with the composition of the Jury. This having fallen through, still another day was fixed, through the mediation of Sir Adam de Welles; and again they met, only to part with their mutual grievance yet unhealed. So that a third trial was eventually arranged through the agency on this occasion of Alexander de Onnesby, Rector of Castreton. So far as the Abbot of Swynesheved was concerned the case was settled by the payment by the Abbot of Peterborough of forty merks (£26 13 4) to his brothers of Swynesheved. On the other hand six arbitrators—Sir Robert de Colevill, Lord of Bitham, Sir Philip le Despenser and John Cleymunt, for Sir Nicholas, and Sir John de Wilughby, Sir John de Kyrketon, and Henry Grene, and behalf of the Abbott—decided that the latter should pay the plaintiff £40, which should remove any claim of de Rye on the marsh in future.

Notwithstanding the tedious dispute and trial which had apparently terminated so satisfactorily, in six years, we find Sir Nicholas lodging another complaint against the Abbot, for purchasing 300 acres of waste land in Gosbercherche without permission from the King. This suit, however, was not decided until the 41st year of Edward III. (1367).

Sir Nicholas de Rye, John Claymond, Roger de Meres and others were appointed Commissioners to

survey the sea-banks and ditches within the towns of Flete and Holbeche, in the year 1360.

Two years later, in presence of Sir William de Huntingfield and others, an inquisition was held touching sluices or gotes in Sotterton, Byker, Swyneshed, Wygtoft, Donington, Quadring, Gosberkirk and Surflete. Amongst those which required repairing were the Angot at Quadring, the Surflete Newgote and Gosberton Thurgote.

Sir John de Crecy in 1369 was amongst those appointed to examine the banks and ditches of Holland.

The Wars of the Roses are possibly the cause for lack of information with reference to this subject, during the next century. Their influence was far-reaching in Lincolnshire, where the nobility and gentry largely embraced the Lancastrian cause, and many perished. The work of reclaiming the Fens was then brought to a standstill.

In 34 Hen: VIII., Charles, Duke of Suffolk, Robert Dymoke, Thomas Heneage. John Copledyk, John Hussey, and Robert Tirwhit, knights, Edward Dymoke and Richard Themolby, and others, esquires, sitting at Donyngton, decreed that a drain should be made on the east of Spaldyng, Pynchbec, Surflet,

(Dugd: p. 237).

Gosberkyrke and Quadring, by every one of the commoners in their own precincts.

Not until 1571 (*temp.* Eliz.) do we hear again of an inquisition, when at Boston, Sir Henry Clinton, Anthony Thorold, Robert Carre, Leonard Irby and John Bushey, esquires, decided that the sewer called Merlode should be widened and diverted to Gosberton Ee, near Challan Bridge; and moreover, that two new bridges should be erected at Rusgate [Rysgate ?] Ee mouth, by the inhabitants of Gosberkirke and Surflete: one in Quadring Fen on the road from Westrop, and one within the limits of Byker, so high as to admit of the passage of boats. They also decreed at the towns of Pinchbeck, Gosberkirk and Surflete should repair the Beche sewer.

The final reference to Gosberton in this connection occurs in 12 Car: I. (1636) when the Earl of Lindsey, for certain considerations, was awarded 24,000 acres of land, taken from various fens, to which Gosberkirke contributed 600 acres.

The result of these gigantic and long-continued operations has been to entirely transform the aspect of the south of Lincolnshire. A large marsh, subject to frequent inundation from the sea, studded with tiny islands, overgrown with oak and fir, and teeming with every product of wild nature, inhabited by a distinct race of men, expert swimmers, who knew too the depth of every little channel and were reputed by the popu-

lace to be web-footed, a place so wild and desolate and generally inaccessible, as to become the haunt of hardened criminals and a refuge to abandoned outlaws,—has given place to a well-favoured, fertile tract, dotted with pleasant villages, adorned with noble churches, and populated by a peaceable, honest, hard-working and law-abiding people.



GOSBERTON FAMILIES.

THE DE RYES.¹ The first occasion on which we find this name inscribed on the page of English history is when HUBERT DE RYE came over as ambassador from William, Duke of Normandy to Edward the Confessor. He subsequently fought at Hastings in 1066. His grandson who bore the same name, soon afterwards became Castellan of Norwich (1074-5), married Agnes, daughter of Robert de Todeni, and widow of William de Beaufoy, Bishop of Norwich, and figures with Bishop de Losinga, as founder of the magnificent Norman Cathedral of Norwich. His eldest son. Henry. appears to have been a liberal benefactor to the church, especially to the monks of Canterbury and Castle Acre, and to the Priory of Belvoir. HENRY DE RYE's younger brother, HUBERT, married Avelina or Alice, said with perhaps insufficient authority, to have been an illegitimate daughter of William Rufus. HUBERT, son of Hubert and Avelina de Rye, died c. 1188, was the last baron of Hingham, and left all his lands in Kinesthorp to John, Bishop of Norwich. There is no doubt that the Lincolnshire de Ryes are a branch of the Norfolk family. A certain DE RYE held two knights' fees in Gosberkirk, Surfleet, Quedhavering and

¹ For a full account both of the baronial family of de Rye of Hingham, Norfolk, and of the knightly family of Gosberkirk, I would refer the reader to "An Account of the Family of Rye" by their kinsman Walter Rye, Esq., and to a forthcoming work by Lady Elizabeth Cust, which will doubtless throw additional light on their history. To these authorities I am indebted for what appears herein.

Donington, and the advowson of the Church of Donington; and his four sons each inherited the property: the first died *ante* 1202, ROBERT, *ante* 1216, WILLIAM, also *ante* 1216, and the fourth — JOHN, who also died *ante* 1216, but left a son ROBERT, who succeeded him, and in his turn left two sons, JOHN (founder of the senior branch) and PHILIP (founder of the junior branch). Let us first follow the fortunes of the elder branch. Taking into consideration the style of armour in which the sole remaining effigy in Gosberton Church appears, which is undoubtedly coeval with the date of his death, and remembering also that the said founder of the senior branch was lord of the manor, and a knight of great wealth, a scion too of a line conspicuous for its princely benefactions to the Church, there seems to be every reason to believe that Sir John de Rye and no other is the worthy knight who in effigy has slumbered for six hundred years undisturbed in dignified repose beneath his glorious canopy in the South Transept of Gosberton Church. He is described as a crusader without the support of documentary evidence, but apparently from the fact that he is represented on his tomb in the conventional attitude with legs crossed. It has many times been shewn that this posture has no distinctive connection with the crusades, for many who certainly did not take part in these expeditions are thus represented, while many again who are known to have had no part therein, are portrayed with crossed legs upon their tombs. This attitude is essentially English, and is never found on the Continent. But we digress.

During Sir John's supposed absence, his brother Philip seized his possessions, which on his death he bequeathed to his son Robert. Therefore in 1251 Robert was sued by John de Rye, and the matter was settled by Robert's retaining half two knights' fees in Gosberkirk, Surflete, Quedhavering and Donyngton, with the advowson of Gosberkirke, while John kept the capital messuage and the chapel of Wryteband (or Rigbolt). He figures in several actions at law; and in 1264 was taken prisoner while fighting by the side of Simon de Montfort at Northampton. An existing seal bears his arms: on one side, *a bend ermine*, on the other, *a double-headed eagle displayed*. He died in 1280, and from the Inquisitio Post Mortem, we find that besides considerable property in Iwardeby, he possessed 40 librates of land (held of the Bishop of Ely at two knights' fees) and ten carucates of land (held of the Earl of Bretagne at $\frac{1}{10}$ th. of a knight's fee) lying in Gosberkirke. His son RANULPH succeeded at the age of 22. In the year following, 1281, he obtained from the king for a weekly market to be held every Monday, and an annual fair on the eve, day and morrow after the feast of the Apostles SS. Peter and Paul, viz., the 28, 29, and 30 of June, at Gosberton, together "with free warren in all his demesne lands at Gosberchirche, Surflete, Quadavering, Donyngton, Iwardeby and Housethorp." Much of his time appears to have been occupied in lawsuits. In 1287 he was Conservator of the Peace, and in 1311, was Sheriff for the County of Lincoln; and on several occasions he was summoned with horses and arms, in

1296 to Newcastle, in 1298 to York and in 1301 to Berwick, where doubtless he fought valiantly against the Scots. He had two sons, JOHN and RANULPH (the latter in 1335 and 1336 being summoned to fight against the Scots) the elder succeeding his father in 1316. Of this Sir John, who became Rector of Gosberkirk in 1312, and died about 1335, we have already included some account in the biographical notices of incumbents. He died of course unmarried, being succeeded by Thomas, son of Walter, son of Hugh, son of Adam de Lincoln, and the manor of Gosberkirk was afterwards held of the Bishop of Lincoln. In turning to the junior



SEAL OF SIR PHILIP DE RYE, C. 1240.

branch, we find that SIR PHILIP died *ante* 1251. In 1736 the Rev. Mr. Ray, vicar of Surfleet, exhibited an ancient parchment endorsed "*Carta Philippi de Rie de t'ra q'm dedit cu' corp'e suo Ecc'ie de Croil*", to the members of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society—the oldest provincial antiquarian society, founded in 1710. Though the document seems to have disappeared it is fortunate the founder of the above society thought it of sufficient interest to quote in part in the minutes of the institution.

and made a copy also of the seal appended, which we here reproduce, by kind permission of the President of the Society (Dr. Perry). By this deed Sir Philip gives "to God, St. Guthlac of Croiland and the Monks serving God there, the whole service and homage of two bondmen, half an oxgang in Surflete, the same in Gosb'ch freed and discharged from all secular services and duties with warranty by him and his heirs for ever." Sir Fulc de Oyri, lord of Whaplode, Sir Thomas de Multon, lord of Moulton and Lambert his son, with twelve others sign as witnesses. He left two sons ROBERT (of whom we have spoken already), and THOMAS (who received a gift of a saltmarsh in Surflete from his father). Robert left three sons, SIR NICHOLAS, Thomas and John. The former who was thrice Sheriff of Lincoln, was summoned against the Welsh in 1282, and against the Scotch in 1291 and 1301. His elder son, also named NICHOLAS, we have alluded to hereinbefore in connection with his monument which formerly existed in the Church. In 1333 he held an assize of bread and beer at Gosberkirk and in 1343 he obtained a licence from Bishop Bekker of Lincoln for an oratory in his manor of Beaurepaire. His two sons were SIR NICHOLAS and SIR EDMOND, the former leaving an only child, a daughter, who married Sir John Tempest. For further particulars I beg to refer the reader to the sub-joined pedigree. An ancient red-brick farmhouse named Barraper or Barrowby Hall in Risegate is all that is left of the ancient manor-house of Beaurepaire. It was recently in the possession of Lord Saye and Sele,

but was sold by auction June. 28, 1888 to Mr. William Bunting, of Dunsham House. Peterborough.

THE DE CRESSYS. This family seems to have been coeval at Gosberton with the de Ryes. Sir Hugo de Cressy, son of Hugo (?) son and heir of William, son of Roger de Cressy, left by his will in 1346¹, bequests to the Church of Surfleet, and to the poor of Surfleet, Gosberkirk, Pinchbeck, Spalding and Quadring, and directed that in the event of his death occurring in England, he should be buried in the Church of St. Laurence at Surfleet, where his monumental effigy may be seen to this day in this Chancel. A full account of the family may be seen in the Rev. John Raine's *History of Blyth*. Cressy Hall, near Gosberton Station, a modern red-brick mansion replaces the ancient seat of this family, which descended through the Markhams to the Herons. A well-known herony was formerly kept up here, but when some of the trees were cut down they migrated to Cawood Hall, whence again they subsequently removed to Wykes Farm, Donington. In the garden of Cressy Hall one of the original doors studded with large nails, has been inserted in a wall with an inscribed stone over it, probably preserved from the fire of 1792. The inscription runs thus: "This Chappell was [built] by licence in the Reigne of King Edward y^e 2^d. aō 1308 and repaired y^e yeare of y^e reigne of King (Ch) arles the 2^d. anno 1666." The fire just mentioned is said to have been

1 Gibbons. *Early Linc. Wills*, p. 15.

caused by plumbers who made a fire on the roof. In 1888 the Hall was sold to Mr. George Cheavin, of Boston, well-known as the principal filter-manufacturer in England, and many of whose ancestors lie buried at the west end of Gosberton Church. The estate comprising 135 acres was sold for £7,100.

THE BOLLES. Beyond the occasional references made hitherto, we have not followed the fortunes and affairs of this ancient Gosberton family. They are mentioned more than once in the Court Roll of Beaurepaire 1391-2. In 1532 Godfrey Bolles,¹ gent., of Gosberkirk, after directing that his body should be buried "in the quere of our Lady" in Gosberkirk Church, left xijd. to our Lady's altar, and to the other iiij altars iiijd. each. He also desired mass to be sung in the Church of Gosberkirk for 99 years for the souls of himself and his parents. To his son John he bequeathed "my marke of swannys, my mesboke and challys with a vestment, iij sylver sponys, my nutte of sylver and gylte." He had five sons, John, Rankyn, Thomas, Richard and George. In 34 Eliz. John Bolle², gent., directs that he shall be buried in the Church, leaves property to his son John and makes his wife Elizabeth executor. In 42 Eliz. Anthony Bolle³ leaves his body to be buried in the parish church, and bequeaths xijd. "to the poore of Gosbertonne," to his daughter Margaret "xxs. and two paire of linnen sheetes, and two paire of harden sheetes to be delivered

1 Maddison. *Lines. Wills*, I. p. 8.

Ib. p. 296.

3 Ib. II. p. 3.

within half a year after my disease." Other bequests to his daughters Jane Bolls, Ellen Hudson, William Hudson and his wife Em. Bolls, His brother George "to bee supervizour." There was formerly a shield of arms in Gosberton Church bearing *az. three [bowls] cups or jesant as many boars' heads couped arg.* for Bolles.¹

THE TEMPESTS. Several members of this knightly family are represented in the De Cressy pedigree. In the Dobledike Court Roll, 18 Hen. VII. (1502), Thomas Tempest and Robert Tempest, armiger, are mentioned as defaulters. Agnes Tempest, widow, of Gosberkirk, 7 Feb., 1533, requested in her will^a to be buried in the parish church, and appointed her son Robert Hu'he exr. "Mr. Thomas Tempest, Esqr., to be good master to him." She mentions also her son Robert's daughters Alice and Rose, and Mrs. Tempest, wife of Mr. Thomas Tempest. "Sir John Tempest, Knt. of Baropeer" was buried with his six sons in Gosberton church and in the church was formerly set up an old standard for Henry, the youngest son of Sir Henry T.—*party per bend erm. and arg. a bend azure in base six martlets (storm-fnches).* A Sir John Tempest, Kt., is buried at Horbling.

THE CALTHROPS. There is considerable probability that this family descends from the knightly house of Calthorpe or Calthrop, of Co. Norfolk, of which were Sir Henry C., Kt., Recorder of London and Attorney-

1 Add. MSS. 17506, Ch. Notes of Lincs. 1592-1634, p. 5. Per J. Edwin-Cole, Esq.

2 Maddison, Lincs. Wills, I. p. 13.

General of the Court of Wards and Liveries, c. 1650, and Sir Martin Calthorp, Lord Mayor of London, 1588. The first who figures in the annals of Gosberton, however, is Richard, b. 1655. d. 1710; he married firstly Mary, by whom he had issue one son and four daughters, and secondly Martha Sharpe, by whom he had issue two sons and four daughters. Of the latter, the elder son Richard, whose tomb and arms are in Gosberton Church, mar. Avice Kelham and ob. s. p. 1759. Turning to the elder branch John, the eldest by his wife Barbara had issue six sons and three daughters; of whom were the Rev. John C., vicar of Kirton and Boston, who died s. p. and was buried in Gosberton Church. Richard (who had nine children) and Benjamin (who had five). Richard's eldest daughter, Ann, m. Luke Betham, the parish apothecary, and the eldest son, John George, ob. 1705, m. Ann Spurr, and had issue seven sons and two daughters. Of these sons the Rev. John Calthrop was vicar of Gosberton for many years. He graduated at Brasenose College, Oxford, and was a man of rare gifts, on many occasions he was select preacher before the University of Cambridge and was the recipient of an honorary degree there. While at Gosberton he published a volume of sermons. Though blind in his later years he was able to go through the whole of the service including the Psalms and Lessons without hesitation, so great was his knowledge of Scripture. He was deeply read in civil and ecclesiastical law, and was chairman of the magistrates at Newmarket. From a wonderful know-

ledge of medicine also he was able to do much in that way in his parish. Beside this he was an accomplished horticulturist and bee master, and it is remembered that the Duke of Rutland sent his head gardener to learn Mr. Calthrop's system of pruning fruit-trees. He died at Isleham, Cambs. in 1845, the last clerical duty he performed having been to marry his eldest daughter, Barbara, to Edgar Leopold Layard, Esq., C.M.G. His children in a large measure inherited their father's gifts: the eldest, John George, was for many years clerk to the Union of Boston, and in the church there one may see a brass dedicating one of the choir-stalls to him. Of a family of ten, but few survived their infancy. Henry James, a skilful surgeon m. Frances Winter, d. 1875, and his widow still resides at Gosberton. The Rev. John C's daughter, Barbara, was endowed with a marvellous memory, was a good linguist, musician and artist. Dying in 1886 she was interred at Gosberton. Her only surviving son is Edgar Leopold Calthrop Layard, the last representative of the oldest branch. To return to the sons of John George C.—Richard, Henry, and James Thompson had issue. Richard m. Eliz. Turfitt Everard, by whom he had fourteen children, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth Ann, m. Thomas Webster, Q.C., and became the mother of Sir Richard Everard Webster, Q.C., M.P., H.M. Solicitor General. Henry, a Captain in the Army m. Mary Greetham and became the father of five children of whom Calthrop Johnstone C., surgeon, survives. The youngest son, James Thompson C., m.

Edna Naylor Knowles, had eight children (of whom Edna Jane was killed on her father's horse 1844, J^{oe} George, Solicitor, is the present Coroner for S. Lincolnshire, Jas. Sykes, now resides at Weasenham, Co. Norfolk, and Edward, M.D., in practice in London). Benjamin, b. 1725, a younger son of John, son of Richard C., m.—Squier and left five children: Squier, John, (m. Mary Gordon), Elizabeth (m.—Fish) Richard and Mary. John had ten children, viz., Mary, John, Priscilla, Richard (killed by a cannon-ball at Algiers). Gordon, Eliza, Louisa, Barbara, Henry (in Holy Orders, sometime Fellow of C.C.C., Cantab., and Rector of Great Braxted, Essex) and James (father of Rev. Francis James C.). The eldest son, John. m. Mary Hollway, whose daughter Mary Esther, m. James Hollway, whose son, Henry C. Hollway-Calthrop now resides at Stanhoe Hall, Co. Norfolk. Gordon b. 1797 ob. 1873 m. Jane Cockshult, and had four children: Gordon (Vicar of St. Augustine, Highbury), Thomas D. (Solicitor), Robert Gordon (in Holy Orders, m. Arabella, d. and h. of Edw. Collingwood of Dissington Hall, Northumberland, and assumed the name of Collingwood) and Jane (m. Edward Bell).

THE IRBYS. Anthony Irby, of Gosberton, "Gentilman" paid 50s. as subsidy, 17 Hen: VIII., and was Commissioner for the collection of the subsidy, for the Hundred of Kirton, 34 and 35 Hen: VIII. Another Antony Irby, Esquire, was Commissioner in 7 Jac. I., and in 4 Car. I. we find him as Sir Antony Irby, Knt., in the same office. The present representative of the family is Lord Boston.

THE DETHES, who were connected with the Irbys, I have been unable to follow. John Dethe, by will¹ dated 15 Aug. 1610, directed that his body should be buried in the Church and left 40s. to the poor of Gosbertonne, and £200 to each of his sons, Anthony, John, Edward, Richard, William, and Jonathan. To Henry "my swann-marke, my best mare and fole and my best colte." To Robert "foure kyne with their calves." To his wife, "all my household stuff, etc., ten of my best kyne, six mares and one cart and one plow with the glares to them belonging."

THE CUSTS are said to have lived in an old house opposite the Church, some traces of which may be found near Mr. Henry Garner's. The name occurs frequently in the registers towards the end of the 17th. century. In the Fire Hearth Certificate of 1665 Obediah Cust, gent. is set down as owning three, for which later on he paid six shillings. At a public meeting² held at Boston Sept. 20, 1672, the same gentleman made a free and voluntary gift of £1 to King Charles II., and on the same occasion Sir Henry Heron, K.B., of Cressy Hall, gave £30.

THE DE LA WARRES have probably left a trace of their residence here in the place-name, Wargate. In 1398³ John de la Warre died possessed of the manor of Dobilldik, the advowson of the Church, as well as 100 acres of land, 90 of meadow, 80 of pasture and 100 of

¹ Maddison. *Lincs. Wills II.* p. 61.

² P. Thompson. *Hist. of Boston.*

³ *Cal. Inq.* p.m.

salt marsh in Gosberkirke, Surflete, Quadrynge, Donyngton, Pyncebek and Spaldinge.

Of the families of Welby, Waterton, de la Louvayne, de Sabaudia, de Cheyle, Calverley,¹ Grey, Ansell,² and others of importance we cannot now speak.

In 1334 John Gulle³ (Grelle?) of Swynesheved, received pardon for the death of John de Dunton, of Gosberkirk, and Cicely his daughter, as it appeared by the record of Geoffrey le Scrope and his fellows, justices of the King's Bench, that he did it in a fit of madness. In 1296 William, son of Richard Capun⁴ of Surflet was pardoned for the murder of Alice, widow of Robert Coywen; and in 1327 Richard, son of Ranulph de Cheyle⁵ of Gosberchirche was pardoned for the death of Robert Belle of the same place.

Many names might be drawn from the Court Rolls to shew what were the resident families in early times. The following appear as jurors in 1391.⁶

Thomas Smyth	Joh'es Radde	Will's Silveron
Robt's Baysbol	Robt's Warde	Joh'es ffraunke
Ric's de Cheyl	Simon Love	Joh'es de Blankeney
Will's Silveron	Joh'es German	Will's Hodisfeld
Ric's Colle	Joh'es Reynaldson	Will's Snawe

Further information may be found in the following Subsidy Rolls, etc.

¹ John Calverley, of Gosberton, was entitled to bear arms.—*Her. Visitm.* 1634.

² Edward Ansell, of Gosberton, appears as a disclaimer.

³ *Cal. Rot. Patent.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Court Roll of Man. of Beaurepaire, 15 Ric. II.

A fragment of an assessment of a Subsidy, upon the inhabitants of the parts of Holland, granted Hen. VIII.

Gosberkyrk	Valuatio	Subs.	
Anthony Irby in goodes	xxvili	xxvi s.	Robt Deth
Godefray Bollys	„	l li l s.	Henry Marable in landes
John Leymay	„	xx d.	John floter „ „
Rich Storke			Willm Marshall „ „
Joh Mortymer			Thomas Grange in landes
Ric Lylle			John Deth „ „
John Thore			Masteres Tempest „ „
Willm phyllypp			Elizabeth Stokley „ „
John Abraham			John Shawe
Jenett Barne			John Shirte
Gylbert Blankney			Will Remy
Raffe Garner			John Nuttyng
Robt fflowle			Ric Stybbard
Willm Bowde			Thomas Barne
George Reed			George Cok
Willm Menwyll			John Stybbard
Robt Knyght			John Thakker
Willm Wassall (is)			Lambard Pevy
John Honyngham junnr.			Ric. Blankeney
John Honyngham Senr in landes			John Stybbard
Thomas Storke in goodes			Thomas Bay
Willm Chell			Robt Blankeney
John Pett			John Dowsying
Ricd Bowde			Thomas Gybson
Symond Smyth			John Ranson
Robt Handey			John Kyrke
John Harysone			Agnes Dowsying
John Beke			Thomas Whytney
Mgarete Rame			Willm Gest
Willm Nicholsonsone			John ffokyngham
Thomas Theryngton			Thomas Long in landes
Thomas Sparke in landes			George Glythorpp
Willm Marchande			Thomas Elward
Willm hogsone			John ffrenche
Willm Cade			Robt Clarke in wages
Willm Beche			Ric Knyght „ „
John Gulle			Thomas floters „ „
Willm Warbertone			Thomas hogbody „ „
Thomas Lexk ?			
Summa totalis	..	xii l. x s.	

1665. LINCOLN FIRE HEARTHS,
GOSBARTOWNE.

Names	Numb.	Names	Numb.
John Burkitt gent.	ix	Willia' Stalley	i
Hugh Storkes	iiij	John Hugbodye	i
John Bell gent.	v	Thomas Money	iiij
Henry Cawood gt.	iiij	Nicholas Day	ij
Jeremy Cawood gt.	iiij	Anthony Allen	i
Obed Cust gt.	iiij	Daniell ffoster for the Exe-)	
Willia' Harriman	i	cutors of George Harpe)	iiij
Thomas Jeffery	iiij	for Wrightsbould House)	
Willia' Gannocke gt.	iiij	Anthony Gell	ij
francis Burket	iiij	William Carter	iiij
Thomas Smyth	i	Mathew Browne	i
John Allen	i	Leonard Lane	ij
Thomas Benington	ij	Willia' Pinder	i
Charles Skipwith Esq.,	ix	Mr. Pembroke, of London)	ij
Hen. Melsoneby	iiij	for an empty house)	
Hugh Turver	iiij	Widow Hill	iiij
John Harvye gt.	iiij	George Sills	ij
Samuell Kinge	ij	John Harwood	i
Thomas Harriman	ij	John Stibard	i
Willia' Wright	ij	Widd Lister	i
Thomas Gregge	iiij	francis Bodkin	i
Robert Garner	ij	Edward Rowlett	i
Edmund Pell	v	Willia' Smyth	i
Thomas Turver	iiij	Richard Ramsdale	i
Willia' felthorpe	iiij	John Callis	i
Richard Tilson	iiij	John Younge	iiij
Richard Ancell	iiij	Richard Watson	i
John Cust	ij	William Whitehead	i
Richard Read	i	John Catlyn	ij
[Bottom of Parchment].		Dorothy Higdon of Spal-)	
[Top of next column].		dinge for an emptye house)	ij
GOSBARTOWNE YETT.		William Kirke	i
Thomas Booth	iiij	Xpo'fer Smyth	i
Samuel Devill	ij	Willia' Newcome	i
Willia' Tompson	i	John Nicholls	i
Willia' Hassell	ij	John ffranke	i
Edward Newcome	i	Thomas Moode	i
Thomas Carter	ij	Nicholas Robertson	i
Thomas Cliffe	i	Thomas Larde	i
francis Balye	ij	Edward Ashwell	i
John Quincey	v	John Shereman	i
		Edward Mayfeild	i

Names	Numb.	Names	Numb.
John Hill	i	Thomas Sampster	ij
Thomas Wright	ij	John Harborough	ij
Robert Reade	i	Aminge Balley	i
Abraham Andrew	ij	Jeremiah Jefferey	ij
Richard Sharpe	ij	Willia' Richardson	iiij
Henry Metcalfe	ij	Symon Grimshaw	i
Richard Barber	i	Samuell Burrowes	iiij
Henry Harvy	ij	Robert Boothbye	iiij
Willia' Hakell for an empty house	ij	John Clarke	i
Thomas Meadows	i	Willia' Saule	i
Henry Boughton	i	Nicholas Collyn	i
John Birtch	iiij	Xpo'fer Smyth	i
John Pryor	i	John Sparagin	i
Widow Orseby for an empty house	ij	Richard Marriott, Jun	i
Roger Galliard	i	Henry fflowers	ij
John Barnard	i	Thomas Kempe	i
John Clarke	i	John Barrand	i
Thomas Willoughby	i	John Younge	ij
John Hockerstone	i	Robert Lad	i
Willia' Murley	ij	Willia' Jacks	i
Widow Tamworthy	i	Nicholas Gath	i
Richard Leamond	i	Richard Brackleby	vj
Willia' Leamond	i	Willia' Browne	i
Willia' Specke	i	Henry Browne	i
Jno' Wilkinson	i	Robert Turner	i
francis Rickett	i	John Pell for an empty house	iiij
Tho. Crampton	i	Prudence Pell	ij
[Another parchment.]		Widow freeman	i
GOSBARTOWNE	GOSBERTOWNE	Phillip Collison	ij
YETT.	YET.	Widd Beele	i
Robert Browne	i	Willia' Elliffe	i
Thomas Edgegoose	i	Widow Sharpe	i
Willia' Sherman	i	Widow Palmer	i
Richard Wilsworth	i	Widow Padley	i
Widd Viccars	i	Widd Bland	i
George Ogar	i	Widow Hill	i
Arthur Broughton	i		

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GOSBERTON VOLUNTEERS.

THE Gosberton contingent of Volunteers originated in 1859, when there was a general movement throughout the country in this direction. A public meeting was convened at Donington during this year, which resulted in the establishment of a corps in the district.

All companies at that time were called corps; but after 1874 they became companies, all the different corps of a county becoming joined together and known as the county regiment. It is therefore of course incorrect now, to speak of any body of volunteers, as a corps. As a result of this meeting a corps was formed, with a gentleman named Calthrop as captain. Volunteers at that time being allowed to give any name to their corps, christened the Gosberton one, the 17th. Lincolnshire Volunteer Corps, by which name it was known up to 1874, when it became the G company of the 2nd Lincolnshire Regiment.

Option being given in the first instance as to the choice of patterns in uniform, the Gosberton corps were clothed in grey without any facings, the headdress being the old shako. The uniform of those days would compare very unfavourably with that of to-day: sealed patterns were then unknown, and owing to change in tailors and special fancies of individuals, it must have

been a matter of difficulty to get two uniforms exactly alike: at present to the smallest details (even of the buttons) exact uniformity has to be adhered to, the present regulation dress being precisely the same as the regular battalion of the line, substituting silver for gold—it is scarlet with blue facings, the ornament being a sphinx. Before the issue of government arms, the appearance of the company to a critical eye must have looked somewhat strange: those happily possessing any sort or condition of private rifle or gun no doubt looked most soldierlike; but the appearance of their less fortunate comrades, who for their warlike armament had to be content with broom-sticks, blind-rollers, etc., is difficult to imagine. The early volunteers, in addition to providing themselves with their own arms (as above) also had to provide their own uniform, and the company funds were responsible for the drill-instructor, who, in the case of the Gosberton corps was an ex-militia private named Hudson, whose knowledge of drill was very little, if any, in excess of the raw material he had to mould. From this brief account of the Gosberton corps, at its origin, it is indeed difficult to conceive how the movement was continued and the present efficient company developed. In passing, one cannot help stopping to pay a tribute of respect to those early pioneers, who, however rough and ready their organisation was, persevered in the face of public ridicule and official want of recognition, and sowed the seeds out of which the present splendid Volunteer Service has sprung. Since its foundation five gentlemen

have successively held the command of the company, namely;—Capts. Calthrop, Holland, Major Casswell, J.P., V.D., Capt. Kingston, and Capt. Stack, who is at present commanding officer. To these gentlemen, the company owe a large debt of gratitude, as in addition to the time they have given up, their position has necessitated a considerable expenditure, and had not such gentlemen been found ready to come forward, the company would of necessity have been disbanded. In addition to Private Hudson whom I have before alluded to, the government have supplied the following sergt.-instructors: from 1859 to '63 Sergt. Faye of the Grantham Militia; from 1863 to '80 Sergt. Lomas of the 57th regt.; from 1880 to '81 Sergt. Bowring of the Royal Marine Light Infantry; from 1881 to '95 (when he retired) Sergt. Ratcliffe of the 90th regt. of Light Infantry. Sergt. Mattocks of the 27th regt. occupied the position for a few months after Sergt. Ratcliffe retired, and was succeeded by Sergt. Martin of the 10th Foot, who is the present sergt.-instructor of the company. Without drawing any distinction between these instructors, an account of the company would be incomplete without some allusion to Sergt. Ratcliffe, probably the most popular sergt.-instructor of the entire battalion. Sergt. Ratcliffe has the record of 34 years active service out of which he has been for 30 years a N.C.O. He served with distinction in the Indian Mutiny of 1858, the Kaffir war of 1878 and the Zulu war of 1879; for the latter two of which, he gained the South African medal. He was also recently presented

with the long-service medal. He has now retired on a pension, and taken up his residence in Gosberton, where he is ever ready to re-fight his battles. In 1874 the company went first into camp for their annual training. For some years previously, they joined the other companies of the battalion, in single day battalion drills, at different towns. The first Colonel was the present Sir John Thorold, Bart., who recently retired, after holding the command for a long period.

Col. J. Hutchinson is the present officer commanding the battalion. The class firing of the company is done at Quadring, on a range lent by Mr. H. Casswell, a gentleman who has at all times been a friend to the Volunteers. There are two annual Cups, presented by the officers of the company, competed for before Camp, the officers also give about £20 annually in prizes.

Several members of the company have distinguished themselves at the annual meetings of the National Rifle Association at Wimbledon, Sergts. Bevis, Cocks and Williamson, having been frequently successful competitors. Sergt. Bevis, (now retired) has been one of the most successful Cup-winners of the company, having for years, in succession, carried off the annual officers' cup, as well as cups presented by Messrs. Milson, Holt, W. Dickenson, Mrs. Kingston, and others. He has also frequently been the winner of the Everard Challenge Vase (a company cup competed for annually) and in 1885 won from the entire county the much coveted Aveland Vase. A few years since,

Major Casswell was decorated with the Volunteer Officers' decoration and distinction only granted for long and meritorious service. A large number of members of the company have been recipients of the long service medal, viz., Ex-Lieut. H. Garner, Ex-Sergts. J. E. Dickens and Bevis, Colour-Sergt. Freemantle, Ex-Privates Garlick, Noble, Farr, Coxell, Graham, Thomas Casswell and W. Titman. Ex-Private Garlick on his recent retirement, after over 30 years' service, was presented with an easy chair by his old comrades at the annual dinner. Notwithstanding the decrease in population the company is stronger to-day than it has ever been before, which is a matter deserving of great credit to Captain Stack and his staff of non-commissioned-officers. We are pleased to be able to present to our readers a portrait of the deservedly popular and energetic commanding officer, Capt. Stack.





CAPTAIN STACK.

IN LATER TIMES.

THERE are now two means of approach open to the modern visitor to Gosberton: the one on the Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint Railway, from Gosberton Station some four and a half miles north east of Spalding, and nearly two miles from the village, the other from Surfleet Station on the Spalding and Boston line lying three miles from the former and some ten from the latter and three miles from Gosberton.

The village is in the Spalding Parliamentary Division and is now represented by H. F. Pollock, Esq. M.P. (Unionist). It lies also in the Wapentake of Kirton and parts of Holland, the parish extending over 7,720 acres.

Educational matters were receiving attention at Gosberton at any rate as far back as 1750, for in that year Henry Eustace Johnson then "at school at Gosberton" writes to his mother in Spalding to inform her of "a very sensible shock of an earthquake on Sunday 30 Sept. about half-an-hour after twelve, so great as to crack a strong house." The Rysegate school, endowed in 1682, was rebuilt during the present century at a cost of £350. The present master is Mr. N. Cooke. In 1856 the National School was built, and in twenty-one years was handed over to the School Board at a nominal rent of 5s. Since 1877 it has been super-

intended by Mr. J. Collins. The infant school was added in 1878, and Cape's Entry school was built at the same time. Sunday schools are carried on in connection with the Parish Church and the Baptist Chapel.

A handsome Public Hall was erected some twenty years ago upon a site given by Lord Brownlow, the principal subscribers to the building fund being Major Casswell and the late Mr. C. Boyer. Gas Works were built in 1872.

Certain members of the Baptist community in Spalding visited Gosberton in 1646 holding meetings either in the open air or in a cottage, and in twenty years was founded a small branch church of sixteen baptized members, which continued to be dependent upon its Spalding neighbours until 1762 when owing to increasing membership, it acquired a resident minister. During this period the Baptists suffered severely for their opinions, and one, Thomas Grantham, who often occupied the pulpit in the little chapel at Gosberton, was imprisoned no fewer than ten times, while another, John Kelsey of Kirton-in-Lindsey lay in Nottingham Gaol for seventeen years, for preaching without a bishop's licence. Happily in our day, charity and respect for the rights of conscience have taken the place of such bitter intolerance. In 1866 the present chapel was built, the original one now forming a school-room and vestry. The Baptists were the pioneers of the Sunday School movement at Gos-

berton. Until recently the resident minister was the Rev. Frederic Todd. The Wesleyans and Free Methodists have each obtained a following here. The former, largely owing to the generosity of the late Mr. C. Boyer, who did much good work among the poor in the village, erected in 1879 a spacious chapel, which contains a fine organ. Two ministers from Spalding preach here monthly while the congregation in the interval is content with the ministrations of "local preachers." Some of the latter in past times have been known as "characters." One such informed his hearers on one occasion that the Pharisees of old time were a most wicked class of men and that the people followed in their footsteps "because they hadn't no nice Wesleyan Chapel to go to of a Sunday morning."

Some of the inn signs are worthy of note. "The Bell" and "Five Bells" owe their origin to the church, and the "Wheel" also — in allusion to St. Catharine, to whom one of the chapels is alleged to have been dedicated. Ale-houses dedicated to the Dukes of York and Cambridge are ubiquitous, and Gosberton is not wanting in such, but the "Green Man" is somewhat unusual; it bears reference to the morris-dancers who doubtless frequented Gosberton fair in early times, and whose favourite dress was of green. This inn bears the date 1690 and has a distinctly Flemish appearance.

With these words we must conclude. Other topics might be broached had we not already far exceeded our original intentions.

T H E E N D .

Frances = Sir Henry Slingsby, Knt., son and heir of Francis Slingsby, of Scriven, co. York, by Mary, dau. to Sir Thomas Percy, 2nd brother and heir to Henry, Earl of Northumberland.

William Slingsby, a. 1618. Mary, 2nd d. = Sir Walter Bethell, Knt., of Alne, co. York.

Sir Hugh Bethell, Knt., of Ellerton; ob. Jan. 1662. Frances = Sir George Marwood, of Buskby, Baronet; æt. 64 ann. 13 Sept. 1665.

Barbara, 1st dau. = Sir Thomas Heblethwaite, Knt., of Norton, co. York.

Barbara, 2nd dau. = Thomas Gatacre, Rector of Hoggeston, co. Bucks. Ob. 1761.

Edward Gatacre (or Gataker), Rector of Mursley-cum-Salden, co. Bucks. Ob. Sept. 1729 [? 1728]. Elizabeth, dau. of

Elizabeth, ob. at St. Albans, 4 July, 1790, æt. 75. = Edward Bouchier, Rector of Bramfield, and Vicar of All Saints and St. John's Hertford, born 7 April, 1707; ob. 17 Nov. 1775.

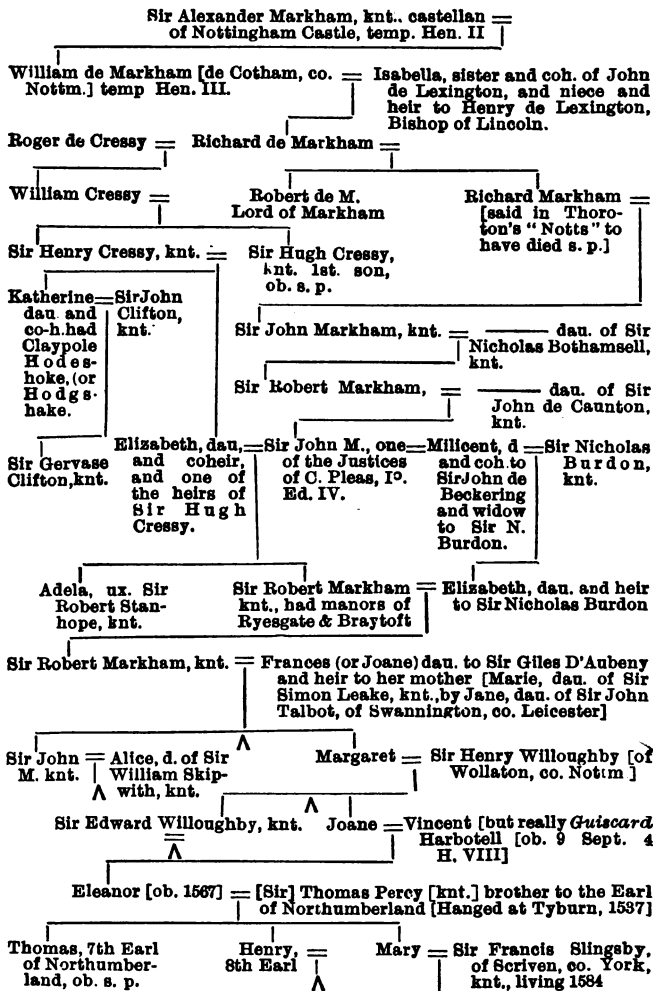
John Bouchier, Capt. R.N. 1790 = Charlotte, 2nd dau. of Thomas Corbett, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law, and of Darnhall, co. Chester; and of Elsham, co. Lincoln (2nd wife).
Lt. Govr. of Greenwich Hospital; born 26 Sept. 1747; ob. at Greenwich 30 Dec. 1808 (4th son).

other children. 1827
Susannah, 4th dau., born 13 April 1800; buried at Boulogne-sûr-Mer, and died there, 9 Nov., 1875. = John Cole, of Easthorpe Court in Wigtoft, co. Lincoln. Born 1793, ob. 1855.

John Charles Cole, eldest surviving son, born 4 Aug. 1832. Adhuc s. p. =
James Edwin-Cole, of Inner Temple, B-at-L. F.R.Hist. Socy., of Swineshead Hall, J. P. for Lincolnshire. Adhuc s.p. =
Mary Anne widow of Hugh Williams, of co. Anglesey. s. p. =

PEDIGREE II.

The Visⁿ of Lincolnshire in 1562-1564, by Cooke. in "The Genealogist," IV. 249-251. The Vis^{ns} of Yorkshire, and other sources.



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